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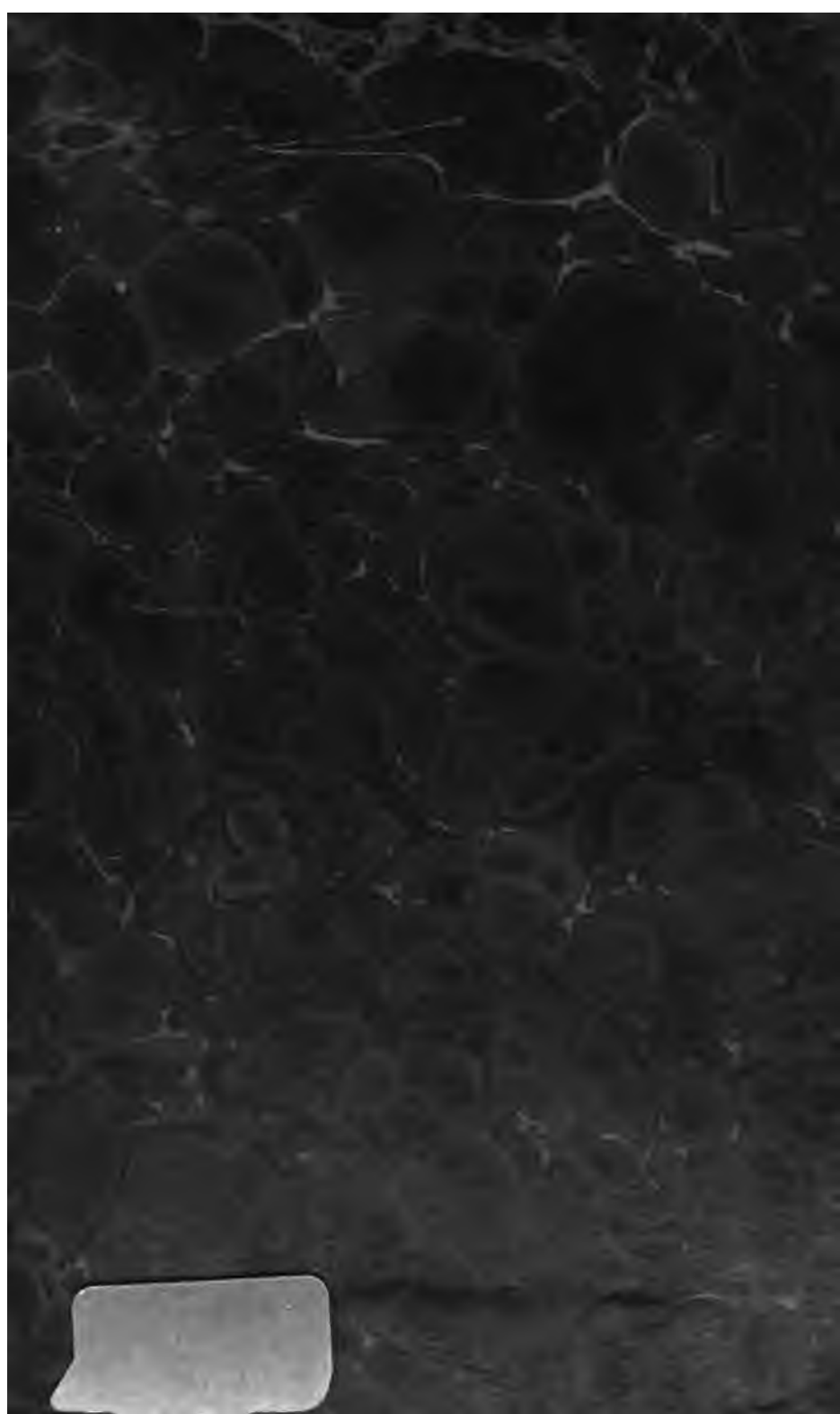
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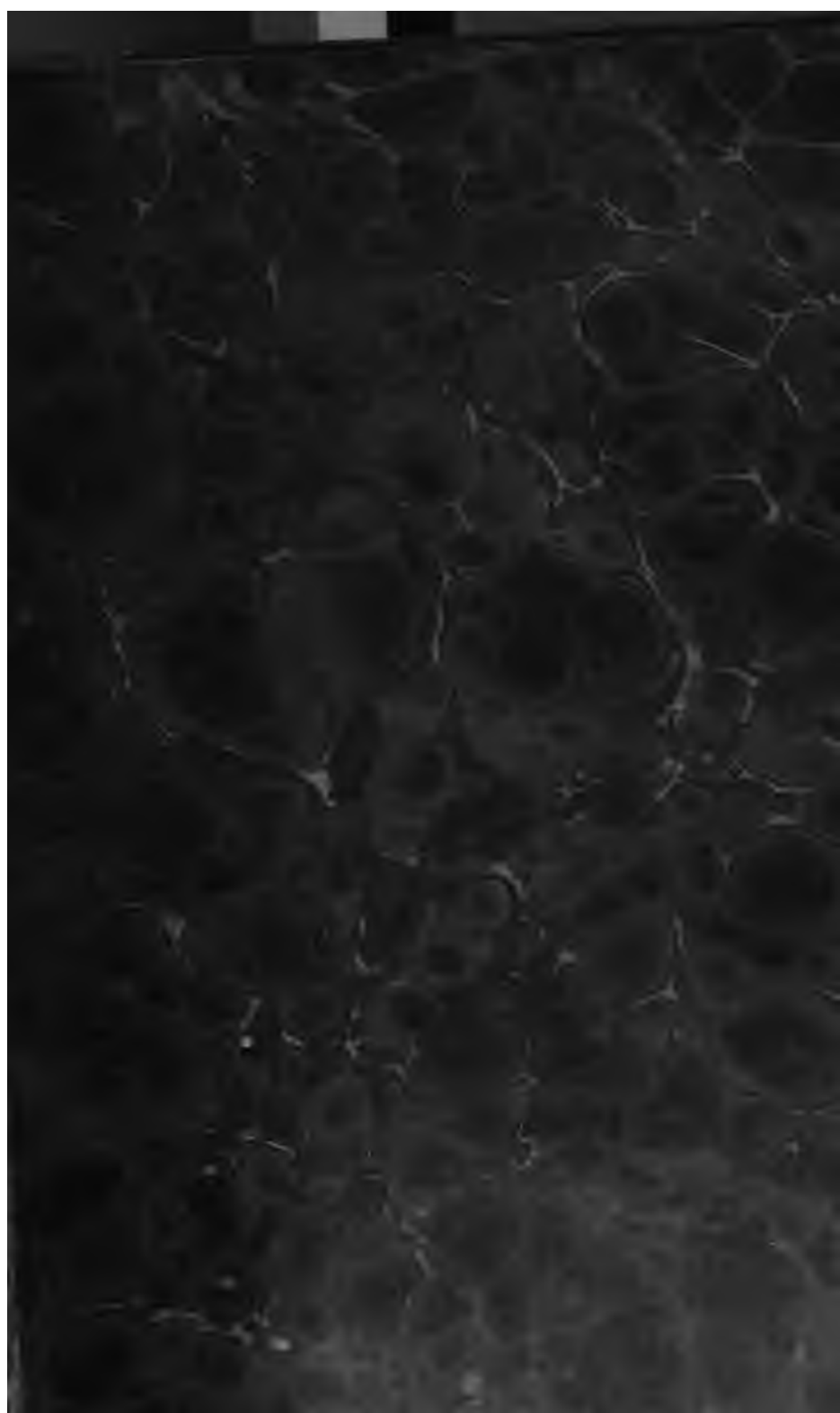
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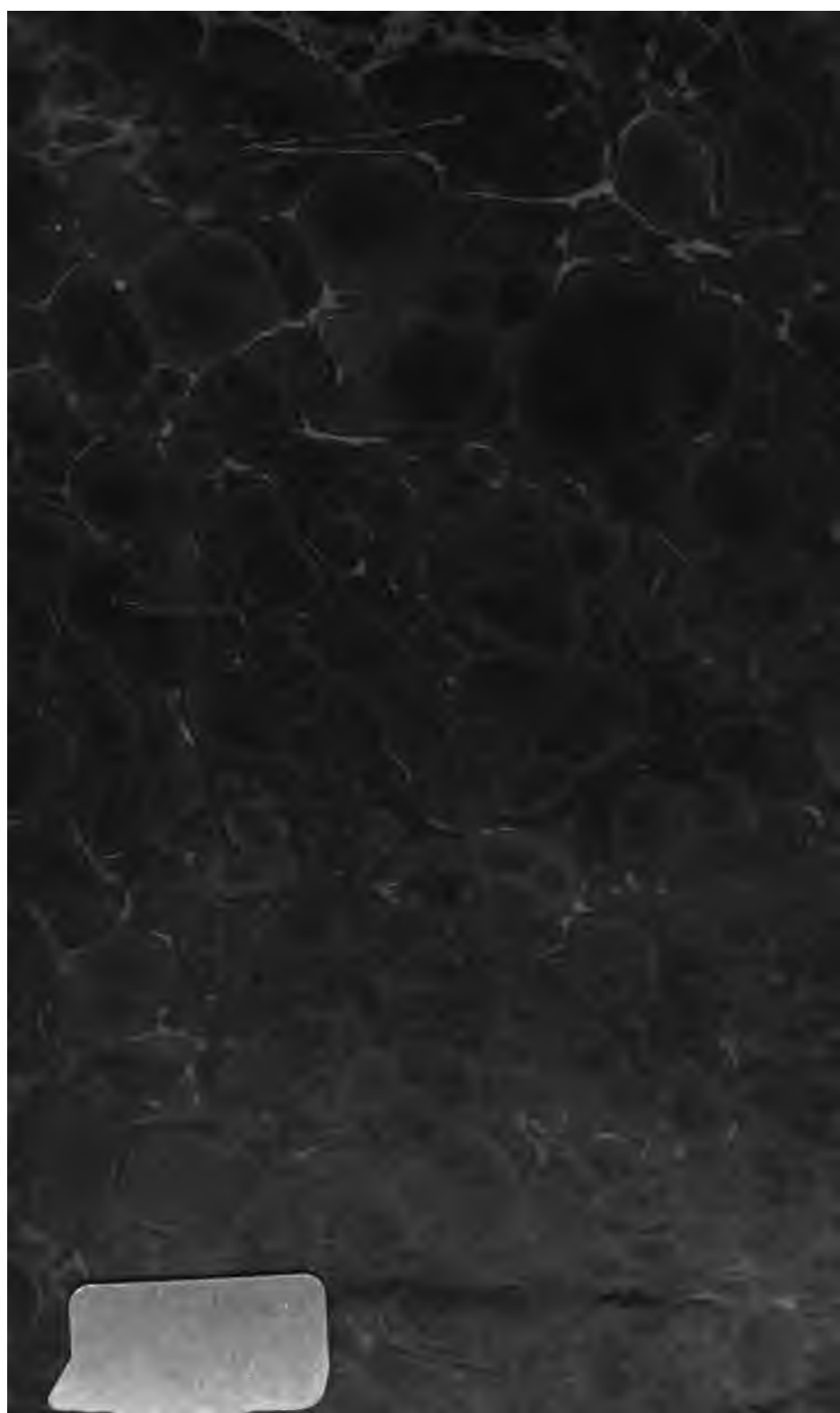
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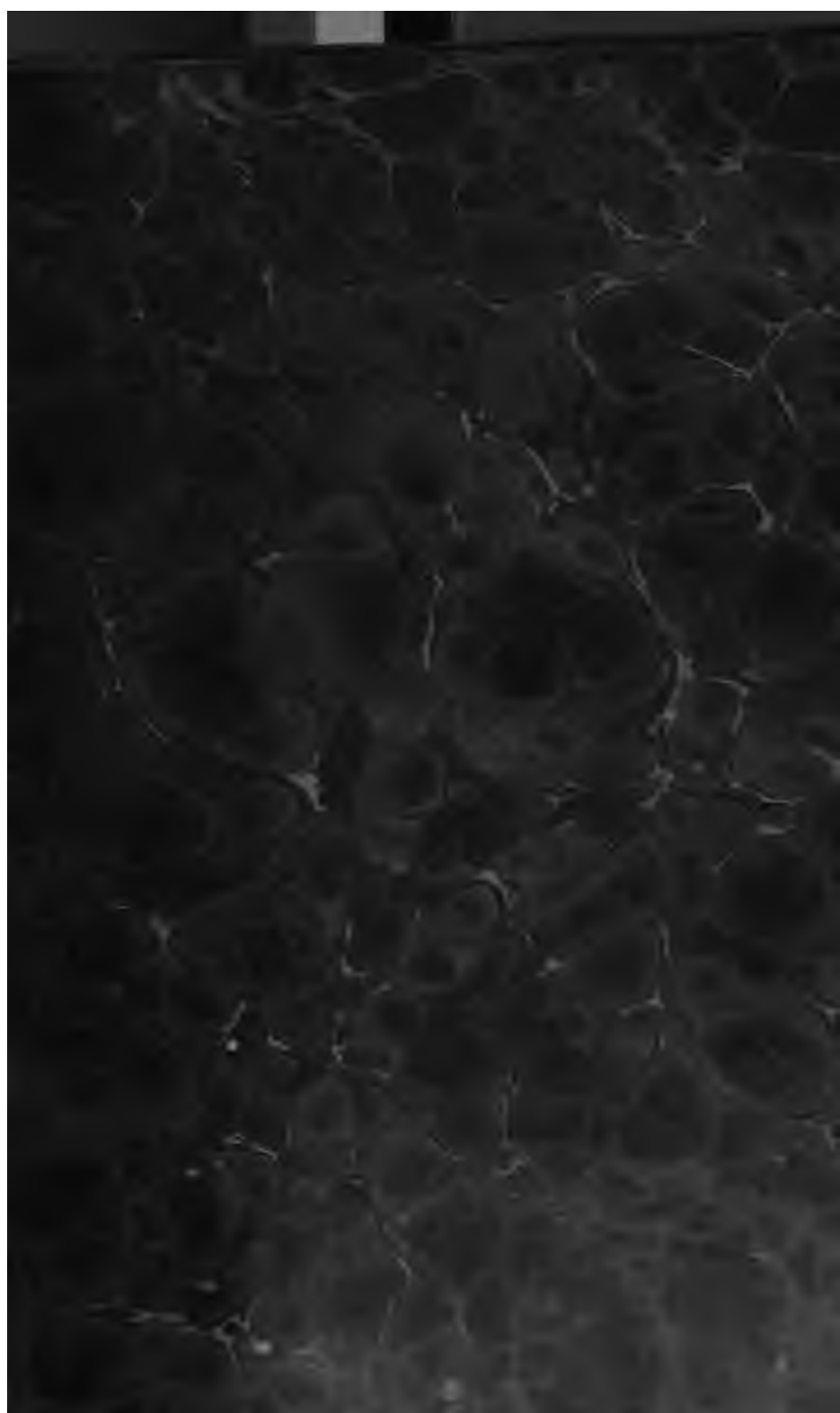
















LOCAL RECORDS;
OR
HISTORICAL REGISTER
OF
REMARKABLE EVENTS,
IN TWO VOLUMES.
BY
JOHN SYKES.



Lambert's Leap
Page 22

NEWCASTLE.
PRINTED FOR JOHN SYKES, BOOKSELLER JOHNSON'S HEAD.
MDCCLXXXIII.



LOCAL RECORDS ;
OR
HISTORICAL REGISTER
OF
REMARKABLE EVENTS,
WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN
NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM,
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, AND BERWICK UPON TWEED,
FROM THE EARLIEST PERIOD OF AUTHENTIC RECORD,
TO THE PRESENT TIME;
WITH
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES
OF
DECEASED PERSONS OF TALENT, ECCENTRICITY,
AND LONGEVITY.
BY JOHN SYKES.

“There comes a voice that awakes my soul—It is the voice of years that are gone ;
they roll before me with all their deeds.”

OSIAN.

A NEW EDITION, WITH NUMEROUS EMBELLISHMENTS,
IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

NEWCASTLE ;

PRINTED FOR, AND SOLD BY, JOHN SYKES, BOOKSELLER ;
AND MAY BE HAD OF ALL THE BOOKSELLERS IN NORTHUMBERLAND
AND DURHAM, BERWICK, EDINBURGH, YORK, AND LONDON.

MDCCCXXXIII.

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vol. 1



TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
JOHN EARL OF ELDON,
D.C.L., F.R.S., AND F.S.A.,
A NATIVE OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE,
AND LATE LORD HIGH CHANCELLOR OF GREAT BRITAIN;

THIS
NEW AND GREATLY ENLARGED EDITION
OF THE
LOCAL RECORDS,

IS, BY HIS LORDSHIP'S KIND PERMISSION,
MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,
BY HIS MUCH OBLIGED
AND OBEDIENT SERVANT,
JOHN SYKES.

Newcastle upon Tyne, February 15th., 1833.



ADDRESS.

ON the appearance of a second edition of this work an explanation is due to the public, but particularly to those subscribers to the first edition, who, convinced of its utility, have given their patronage a second time. Having at considerable labour collected from *every attainable source*, an immense addition of very curious information, together with the occurrences which have taken place since the publication of the first, rendered a second edition necessary.

To natives, residents, and others interested, the utility of a work of this kind must be obvious, as the most retentive memories, after a lapse of time, will be found defective, and, in consequence, many circumstances of peculiar local interest have been partially forgotten, if not buried in oblivion.

This district having long been the seat of the Romans who built the *mighty wall*, extending across the kingdom from sea to sea, antiquities of a peculiarly interesting character are constantly being discovered. To the Romans succeeded the Saxons and Danes, who visited this district with merciless ferocity, plundering and murdering the inhabitants, and burning the sacred edifices; then came the neighbouring Scots, who, on every inroad, dealt fire and sword with unsparing hands, which conspired to provoke many memorable and sanguinary conflicts. These, with every other remarkable event, from the best historians, periodical journals, MSS., private information and personal research, are faithfully given in detail, so that the work may be considered as a chronological history of the district, from the earliest period to the present time.

This publication, which is entirely re-written, has been a considerable time in the press, which was in some measure occasioned by an overflow of work in the office wherein it has been printed: and a long and severe indisposition under which I laboured, added to its tardiness, but as it is now before the public, I hope it will give every satisfaction, having spared neither toil, trouble, nor expense to render it so.

The first edition was so well received, that the whole impression (limited as all local publications necessarily are) was soon disposed of: this, together with the flattering approval of several literary gentlemen, who urged the necessity of a second edition, induced me to attempt it, and as I have done my best, I leave its merits to a candid and discerning public, being perfectly satisfied that if it shall be found that much is omitted, it cannot be forgotten that much is likewise performed.

I am led to believe that this is the only work of the kind, confined to a particular portion of the kingdom. It is true that there are attached to some local histories, brief details of memorable events, &c., but these will be found to be very limited when compared with the present work.

Chronology has always been considered a useful and essential help to history, I therefore flatter myself that, to the future local historian, this work will be of no small value, much labour and very minute attention having been bestowed on the collating of paragraphs, the accuracy of dates, and other facts, and inasmuch as the sources from whence the contents are derived may not then be attainable or in existence.

It is not my intention again to reprint this work, but my design is (should I be spared), to collect and publish at certain periods from the present time, uniform parts as a continuation.

The Right Honourable the Earl of Eldon, late Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, being a native of Newcastle, and a subscriber to my first edition, and from whom I have experienced much kindness (though without any personal knowledge of his Lordship), induced me when I projected this edition, to solicit his Lordship's patronage, which was given in so

characteristic a manner, that I cannot resist availing myself of this opportunity of recording his Lordship's reply :

" Sir,

In answer to your letter, if it is your wish to dedicate your second edition to me, I cannot possibly object to it. Long as I have been absent from my native town, I retain a very strong feeling of attachment to it, and my name may live in that town in a page of your Local Records, when it might otherwise be wholly forgotten."

I am, Sir, with due respect,
your obedient Servant,

" Encombe, Corfe Castle, Dorset,
November twenty-first, 1828."

ELDON."

" Mr. John Sykes, Newcastle on Tyne."

I have not language to do justice to this venerable nobleman's splendid talents, and stern and uncompromising integrity of character, whose recent family afflictions I deeply deplore.

In addition to his Lordship's patronage, I am proud to acknowledge the assistance of the following gentlemen.

To Robert Surtees, of Mainsforth, Esq. F.S.A., my thanks are particularly due for the present of a copy of his admirable "History of Durham," and other kind assistance.

My obligations are also due to Sir Cuthbert Sharp, Knight, F.S.A., Sunderland, for a copy of his "History of Hartlepool," various privately printed tracts, and other favours.

To Robert Henry Allan, of Durham, Esq., F.S.A., for his unsolicited favours in kindly communicating many valuable particulars, and also for his interest in obtaining for me several subscribers, I feel a deep sense of gratitude.

To the Rev. James Raine, M.A. Rector of Meldon, and the Rev. Thomas Ebdon, Durham, my thanks are especially due for various valuable paragraphs.

The particular expression of my thankfulness is likewise due to John Hodgson, Esq., of Elswick House, M. P., for Newcastle, for his kind offer of a loan of his invaluable volumes of Newspapers, and works from his private library, and other favours in furtherance of my work.

To John Buddle, Esq., of Wallsend, whose prompt assistance relative to the collieries, I shall ever remember with respect.

The communications of the late N. J. Crosse, Esq., of Hull; William Reid Clanny, Esq., M.D., of Sunderland; and Robert Spence, Esq., of North Shields, merit my particular regards.

The Right Worshipful Archibald Reed, Esq., mayor of Newcastle, whenever applied to for information, transmitted it with the greatest urbanity and attention, which enhanced the obligation.

The following gentlemen of Newcastle, whose readiness in furnishing information for this work, will be pleased to accept my warmest acknowledgments:—John Adamson, Esq. F.S.A., under sheriff; John Fenwick, Esq.; Henry Ingledeu, Esq.; Mr. John Rawling Wilson; Mr. Robert Oliver; Mr. George Tinn, surgeon; Mr. Thomas Bell, land-surveyor; Mr. William Gill Thompson; and Mr. Thomas Sopwith, land surveyor.

To the late Mr. Richard Fletcher, builder, of Newcastle, who died February 15th, 1832, aged 62 years, universally respected, I owed much obligation, not only for the use of his local memoranda, but also for his kind and unceasing solicitude for the success of the present work. Mrs. Fletcher and family will, therefore, receive this as a proof of my respect to the memory of a departed friend.

Mr. Daniel Turner, of Blagdon; Mr. Joseph Hunter, viewier, Wallbottle; and Mr. Joseph Ridley, of Hexham, are numbered with those to whom I feel greatly indebted. I am also obliged to several other gentlemen who have favoured me with their assistance.

The late Isaac Cookson, Esq., of Newcastle, having added some curious notes to his copy of the first edition of the Local Records, I have been enabled, through the kindness of his son, the late much lamented Christopher Cookson, Esq., Recorder of Newcastle, to insert them in the Addenda.

I now respectfully take my leave, having, as promised, brought down the occurrences to the latest period.

JOHN SYKES.

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-

LIST OF EMBELLISHMENTS.

xiv. 6.

The following names of Subscribers did not come to hand until the alphabetical list was printed off. The name, in full, of Richard Hansell Bell, Esq., *South Shields*, came also too late.

Mr. Henry Anderson, *Solicitor, South Shields.*
 Mr. Matthew Stephenson Dodds, *South Shields.*
 Mr. Francis Pace, *South Shields.*
 Mr. George Potts, *Notary Public, South Shields.*
 Edward Twizell Wawn, Esq., *South Shields.*
 Mr. John Wright, *Solicitor, South Shields.*

For the above, and several other Subscribers, I am indebted to my friend, Mr. John Jackson, of South Shields.

161, Newgate South Front (2).
 162, Portcullis of Newgate.

404, Mr. Coulthard's Coffin.
 416, Part of Bewick's Monument.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS

VOL. I.

Page. Line.

- 10—15 from the bottom, *for* "found," *read* fought.
 36—19 from the top, *for* "Upselington," *read* Upselington.
 78—the real motto of Newcastle is "FORTITER DEFENDENDO TRIUMPHANS," as it appeared in a sketch of the arms soon after they were granted or assumed: the present motto is barely sense, the true motto full of meaning.
 108—in the running head line, *for* "[A.D. 165," *read* [A.D. 1656.
 108—12 from the bottom, after "original writ," dele "is," and insert, and a copy of the statutes are.
 127—18 from the bottom, *for* "The Chapel," *read*, The Dissenting Chapel.
 133—2 from the top, dele the full point, and add, which is accomplished in 42 hours, and attempts are now being made for the completion of that distance in a still shorter period of time.
 143—9 from the top, *for* 1115 was deeply and rudely cut," *read*, deep and rude incisions appeared.
 153—in the running head line, *for* "A. D. 1739]" *read* A. D. 1736.]
 157—in the running head line, *for* "A. D. 1839]," *read* A. D. 1739.]
 226—in the note at the bottom, *for* "ordinary surgeon," *read* orderly sergeant.
 239—5 from the top, *for* "stationed," *read* station.
 254—4 from the bottom, *for* "vis et," *read* Jh's est, or, Jesus est.
 290—4 from the top, *for* "(June)," *read* (June 15).
 317—15 from the top, *for* "Walldridge," *read* Walldridge.
 324—23 from the bottom, *for* "in that time," *read* in that town.
 327—4 from the bottom, *for* "Rev. Joseph Cooke," *read* Rev. Thomas Cooke.
 327—16 from the bottom, *dele* "crowns."
 341—6 from the bottom, *for* "duke of Newcastle," *read* duke of Northumberland.
 372—12 from the bottom, *for* "front teeth," *read* front tooth.
 The page after 371, *for* 387, *read* 378.
 387—25 from the top, *for* "to county," *read* to the county.

VOL. II.

- 43—19 from the top, *for* "In the spring of this year (1809), died, and was buried at Bellingham, in Northumberland, Edward Coulson, an eccentric character," *read* 1807 (December 27), Edward Coulson, an eccentric character, was buried at Bellingham, in Northumberland, aged 54 years. This paragraph ought, therefore, to be placed at page 33
 65—this page being repeated, *for* the second, *read* 66.
 183—17 from the top, *for* "See March 1st, 1829," *read* See June 1st, 1829.

The reader is required to make the above corrections with the pen, but particularly the errors in the years and paging, so that the references in the Indexes may correspond.

LOCAL RECORDS ;

OR,

HISTORICAL REGISTER OF REMARKABLE EVENTS.

ALL ancient writers agree in representing the first inhabitants of Britain as a tribe of the Gauls or Celtæ, who peopled that island from the neighbouring continent. The Britons are stated by the early writers to have been extremely numerous, living in cottages thatched with straw, and feeding large herds of cattle. They lived mostly upon milk, or flesh procured from the chase ; what clothes they wore to cover any part of their bodies were usually the skins of beasts, but much of the body (as the arms, legs, and thighs,) was left naked, and those parts were usually painted with an azure blue, which, in the language of the country, was called *brith*, hence the name of Brittain or Britain. Their hair, which was long, flowed down upon their shoulders, while their beards were kept close shaven, except upon the upper lip where it was suffered to grow. The religion of the Britons was one of the most considerable parts of their government, and the Druids who were the guardians of it, possessed great authority among them. No species of superstition was ever more horrible than that of the Druids ; they sacrificed human victims which they burned in large wicker idols, made so capacious as to contain a multitude of persons at once who were thus consumed together. The female Druids plunged their knives into the breasts of the prisoners taken in war, and prophesied from the manner in which the blood happened to stream from the wound. The inhabitants of Britain were in this rude and barbarous state when Julius Cæsar, fifty-five years before Christ, made his first descent upon the island, at, or in the immediate neighbourhood of Deal in Kent. The poor, naked, ill-armed natives were but an unequal match for the disciplined Romans ; however they made a brave opposition against the veteran army, but were eventually overthrown. Various were the descents which the Romans from time to time made upon this island, and bloody were the conflicts

between the contending parties, until about A. D. 80, when Julius Agricola, who commanded the forces, and governed the island during the reigns of the Emperors Vespasian, Titus, and Domitian, finally established the dominion of the Romans in Britain. This general, who distinguished himself as well by his courage as humanity, formed a regular plan for subduing and civilizing the island, and thus rendering the acquisition useful to the conquerors. As the northern part of the country had not been subdued, he carried his victorious arms thither, and defeated the undisciplined enemy in every encounter. He pierced into the formerly inaccessible forests and mountains of Caledonia; he drove onward all those fierce and intractable spirits who preferred famine to slavery, and who, rather than submit, chose to remain in perpetual hostility. Nor was it without opposition that he thus made his way into a country rude and impervious by nature. He was opposed by Galgacus, at the head of a numerous army, whom he defeated in a decisive action, in which considerable numbers were slain. Being thus successful he did not think proper to pursue the enemy into their retreats, but embarking a body of troops on board his fleet, he ordered the commander to make the circuit of the whole coast of Britain, which had not been discovered to be an island till the preceding year. During these military enterprises, Agricola was ever attentive to the arts of peace. He attempted to humanize the fierceness of those who acknowledged his power, by introducing the Roman laws, habits, manners and learning. He also erected a chain of forts which extended from the Solway Frith to the mouth of the river Tyne; thus cutting off the rude and more barren parts of the island, and securing the Roman province from the invasion of a fierce and necessitous people. One of these forts was upon the site of the present Newcastle.

120.—This year, the Emperor Ælius Hadrianus, who was here in person, built his wall or rampart, nearly from the Irish Sea to the German Ocean, taking in the former chain of forts made by Agricola, ending it on the site of the present Newcastle, at which place he also threw a bridge over the Tyne, a circumstance which gave a new appellation, that of *Pons Ælii*, (derived from his family name,) to the Roman station. Very recent discoveries prove Newcastle to have been a Roman station.—*See the years 1771 and 1810.*

207.—The Emperor Severus, who at this time was in Britain, began to erect his famous wall of stone, which was extended across the island nearly from sea to sea, finishing it in the year following. This stupendous monument of the Roman people passed through the site of the present Newcastle eastward, ending at the station of *Segedunum*, near the village of Wallsend. Here have been found a wall composed of Roman bricks, a fibula, some Roman tegulæ, and coins, a ring, &c.; immense quantities of bones, horns and teeth of animals that had been sacrificed; also stones with inscriptions, and Roman hand-mill stones, by which the soldiers ground their corn. A very curious piece of Roman pottery found

here was in the possession of the late Hugh Hornby, Esq. alderman of Newcastle. It was afterwards in the possession of William Chapman, Esq. of Newcastle, who presented it to the Antiquarian Society of that town.

There were eighteen Roman military stations upon Severus' wall; but according to the plan of this work, those within Northumberland only shall be enumerated, beginning at the easternmost station. *Segedunum*, Wallsend; *Pons Ælii*, Newcastle; *Condorcum*, near Benwell; *Vindobala*, Rutchester; *Hunnum*, Halton Chesters; *Cilernum*, Walwich Chesters; *Procolitia*, Carrowburg; *Borcovicus*, House-steeds; *Vindolana*, Little Chesters; *Æsica*, Great Chesters; *Magna*, Caerwörran, which is the westernmost in this county.

About three miles west of Newcastle, in the deep hollow below Benwell Hill, a few yards to the south of the turnpike road, near Denton Burn, yet remains a curious fragment of Severus' wall. It measures about nine feet in breadth; an apple tree grows out of the middle of it. The following cut represents the south face of this portion of the wall, as it appeared in March, 1823. The lover of antiquities will be gratified to learn that this fragment has recently been railed in, so that it is now likely to be preserved.



445.—About this year Newcastle still occurs under the appellation of *Pons Ælii*, a Roman station, where at that time, a cohort were in garrison. After a silence of nearly two centuries, mention occurs again of this celebrated place, under the new appellation of *Ad Murum* (at the Wall), and the residence of a Northumbrian king.

449.—The unhappy state of the northern inhabitants, after they were totally deserted by the Romans, about the middle of the fifth century, is easily conceived; the perils and miseries to which they were frequently exposed, by the incursions of their ferocious neighbours, the Scots and Picts, induced them, in the above year, to implore the assistance of the Saxons, a brave and warlike people, inured to arms.

547.—The Saxons drove the Britons totally from the province of Bernicia, which was the Saxon name of that district, which lies north of the river Tyne, or wall of Severus, and which extended, during some periods of the Saxon power, as far as the Edinburgh Frith. At this time, *Ida*, a Saxon of high birth, became king of Bernicia, he erected the castle of Bamborough, opposite the Fern Islands, in a situation remarkably strong and conspicuous, and in honour of his queen, *Bibba*, gave it the name of *Bibbanburgh*, which, in progress of time, was contracted into its present name.

Alnmouth Castle in Northumberland, was also built by *Ida*, after he assumed the sovereignty of Bernicia.

Alnwick Castle, according to the observations of a learned antiquary, owes its origin to the Romans. If so, the town must have been also founded by that people, as their artificers, &c., always lived under the protection of a fortress. However, it is at least certain that *Alnwick* was inhabited by the Saxons, and that the castle, at the time of the conquest, was the property of *Gilbert Tyson*, one of the most powerful chiefs of Northumberland. *Alnwick Castle* is one of the largest Gothic buildings in Britain, containing about five acres of ground within its outer walls, which are flanked with sixteen towers and turrets. The following cut represents the seal of this ancient town.



560.—*Ælla*, one of the chieftains who came over with *Ida*, conducted the Saxons against the province of *Deira* (*Durham*), from whence having expelled the Britons, he assumed the sovereignty thereof, and settled there with his adherents. *Ælla*, after having reigned in *Deira* for twenty-seven years, was elected king of *Bernicia*; the two provinces under him thus becoming united, obtained the name of the kingdom of Northumberland (one of the *Heptarchy*, or seven Saxon kingdoms), and which continued from 547 to 826, during which period it was governed by about thirty kings. During the *Heptarchy* the Saxons held *Newcastle* in great esteem

and made it one of the chief seats of the Northumbrian kings, who adorned it with so great a number of monasteries, that from them it obtained the name of Monkchester, which appellation continued until the building of the new castle, from which it exchanged its name once more to that of Newcastle, which it retains to the present time.

617.—Edwin, King of Northumberland, some time between this year and 633, erected at Tynemouth, a place of residence of wood, for religious of both sexes, in which his own daughter, Rosella, took the veil. Oswald, a succeeding king of Northumberland, in 634, pulled down this wooden residence for devotion, and upon its site built another of stone. Algebrin, now the village of Yevering, near Wooler, in Northumberland, was a royal residence of King Edwin.

635.—The see of Lindisfarne was founded by King Oswald, who in the very beginning of his reign, was called upon to protect his subjects from an invasion of Cedwell, king of Cumberland. Like Constantine, he determined to fight under the banner of the cross, and like Constantine he was victorious. Cedwell and his invading army were left dead upon the field of Deniseburne (in the neighbourhood of Hexham), and the king, grateful for his victory, formed upon the spot a determination to establish Christianity in Bernicia, the northern province of his kingdom. In order to carry his determination into effect, he had recourse for a missionary to Donald, king of Scotland, who forthwith commanded Corman, a monk of Iona, to convert the heathens of Bernicia, but Corman's attempts totally failed, and Aidan, another monk, undertook the task. Aidan, upon his arrival in Northumberland, was permitted by Oswald, its king, to select for himself the seat of his episcopacy, and Lindisfarne became the object of his choice. Here the see of Durham was first established, and the gospel preached to the Northumbrians by Aidan, who was a person of peculiar sanctity. Such were the effects of his labours, assisted by the king, that in the space of seven days 15,000 persons were baptized, and the church of Northumberland was fixed on a permanent basis. Many of Aidan's brethren left Scotland to assist in the holy work.

640.—The Monastery of Hartlepool was founded, upon the first conversion of the Northumbrians to Christianity, about this time, by a religious woman named Hieu, or St. Bega, whereof St. Hilda, who was nearly allied to the kings of East Anglia and Northumberland, was sometime abbess.

651.—This year mention is made of a church at Bamborough in Northumberland.

653.—Penda, king of Mercia, was baptized, with all his chivalry, at *Ad Murum* (Newcastle), from whence he took with him four priests, named Cedd, Adda, Betti, and Diuna.

This year there was a monastery at Gateshead, whereof Uttan was abbot.

660.—A monastery was established at Ebchester, by Ebba, daughter of Ethelfrid, King of Northumberland. It was afterwards destroyed by the Danes. Ebchester was the site of a Roman station,

and many inscriptions and other remains of that people, have been found there. The church is dedicated to St. Ebba, and is of great antiquity.

672.—Penda, king of Mercia, attempted to burn Bamborough Castle, by setting fire to piles of wood laid against its walls, but the wind blowing contrary, the flames caught his own camp, and he was obliged to raise the siege.

674.—Wearmouth monastery, dedicated to St. Peter, was founded by Benedict Biscop; and, when that building was nearly finished, he procured artificers from France, skilled in the art of glass making, the manufacture of which the inhabitants of the British isles were at that time strangers to, and this structure had the honour of being glazed with the first glass made in England; previous to which, windows were either latticed, or at best, filled up with fine linen cloths stretched upon frames of wood. About this time, Wilfrid, Archbishop of York, founded the monastery of Hexham, having obtained Hexhamshire as a gift to religious uses from Etheldrida, Egfrid's queen. The church he built there was erected by workmen he brought from Italy and other distant countries, and dedicated to St. Andrew. Historians of that time say, it exceeded in beauty and elegance every other edifice in the land; they particularly praise the variety of the building, the columns, the carvings, the oratories, and the crypts. They dwell with wonder on the richness of the covers for the altar, the gilding of the walls with gold and silver, and the fine library, collected at a great expense. It is generally agreed that Hexham was erected into an episcopal see in 678, when Eata was instituted the first bishop. After having been the seat of a bishop nearly two centuries, the diocese of Hexham was united to Lindisfarne at Chester-le-street.

Hexham gave birth to two priors of its church, John de Hexham and Richard de Hexham. The former continued the History of Durham from 1130 to 1154—the latter wrote a "*History of Hexham Church and Bishops*," the "*Reign of Stephen*," and the "*War of the Standard*."

681.—Jarrow, or Gerwy, monastery was founded by Ceolfrid, under the auspices of Benedict Biscop. It was dedicated to St. Paul, on the kalends of May (23d of April), four years afterwards (685), which was the 15th year of the reign of king Egfrid, and the fourth year of the abbacy of Ceolfrid. This is proved, beyond a doubt, from an inscription on a stone placed over the entrance to the chancel when this church was altered and repaired in 1782—*which see*. This stone was found built up in the north wall of that edifice, and bears one of the most curious inscriptions now remaining in the island. Jarrow church also contains one of the first bells used for religious purposes in England. The monastery of St. Paul, built under the auspices of Biscop, and with the approbation, or rather at the command, of King Egfrid, was intended to be rather a part of, than a distinct institution from, the monastery at Wearmouth, under the general name of St. Peter and St. Paul. Benedict, worn out with labour and travels, died of a palsy,

Jan. 12, 690, and was buried in the church of St. Peter, at Wearmouth.

685 (*April 7*).—Being Easter day, Cuthbert, the great saint of Northumberland, was consecrated at York, bishop of Lindisfarne. This eminent personage was so highly distinguished for his purity of life and manners, and for the miraculous powers with which he was believed to be invested, that immense gifts were conferred upon the church for his sake. He is recorded to have possessed, as a reward for his exalted piety, all the lands between the rivers Tyne and Tees, which immense tract is frequently denominated *The Patrimony of St. Cuthbert*. He died on the 20th of March, 687. He directed, by his last will, that his body should be buried at the east end of the oratory, in the monastery at Lindisfarne, in a stone coffin, and that, should this land be invaded by Pagans, the Monks were to fly from thence, and to carry his bones away with them. After his decease he became the tutelary saint of the see, and, previous to his final settlement at Durham, failed not to enrich the coffers of his monks by the many miracles which were almost daily performed at his tomb. His favour and protection were not only courted during his life, but even after his death. King Canute humbled himself to such a degree as to visit the shrine of St. Cuthbert barefooted, having proceeded in that state nearly five miles, offering, at the same time, several territories. St. Cuthbert spent the two last years of his life on one of the Fern Islands. He selected this sequestered spot that he might not be interrupted in his meditations. Here was afterwards established a priory for six Benedictine monks, subordinate to Durham. There is a lighthouse here, and a well of fine fresh water.

688.—Eadburt succeeded to the see of Lindisfarne. This humane prelate, discovering that the exaction of the church dues from the lower classes of the people was become a grievance, made it a general rule to restore them to the poor. The original church of Lindisfarne was built by Aidan, of split oak, and covered with reeds, but it remained for Eadburt to begin and complete the monastery, or cathedral, which he built of stone and covered with lead, the remains of which are still standing. After having finished this pious work, he caused the body of St. Cuthbert to be removed into a magnificent tomb prepared for it on the right side of the high altar. On this occasion, it is stated, that the body was found perfect and uncorrupted, as if still living, the limbs flexible, and the whole appearance like one that slept.

735 (*May 29*).—Died, the venerable Bede, aged 62. He is said to have been born at Monckton, a village a mile west of Jarrow. Here and at Hexham he received the rudiments of his education; and taking the tonsure, spent the remainder of his life, in great piety and unwearied application to letters in the monastery at Jarrow. He was the best historian and divine of his time. His works are numerous, but his "*Ecclesiastical History*" is most known and most valued. For the uncommon sanctity of his life, he was canonized after his death. He was buried in a porch, built

to his honour, on the north side of the church at Jarrow, but his relics were afterwards removed, and interred in Durham Cathedral. About a mile to the west of Jarrow there is a well called Bede's Well, to which, in the last century, it was a prevailing custom to bring children troubled with any disease or infirmity; a crooked pin was put in and the well laved dry between each dipping. Twenty children have been brought together on a Sunday to be immersed in this well; also on Midsummer Eve there was a great resort of neighbouring people with bonfires, music, &c.

771.—At this time there was a monastery at Corbridge, in Northumberland.

782.—A synod was held at Great Aycliffe, in the county of Durham, and another was held here in the year 789.

788.—Ælfwold, king of Northumberland, was killed by one of his nobles, named Siga, at Scythechester, near the Roman wall, and was buried at Hexham.

789.—The Danes made their first descent on the shores of England. Four years afterwards, a body of these northern pirates ravaged the coasts of Northumberland; the defenceless treasures of the church offered an easy booty; the cathedral and monastery of Lindisfarne were fired and pillaged, and as many of the ecclesiastics as did not escape by flight, were promiscuously butchered. Another descent was attempted in the following year, but not with equal impunity; the invaders, after plundering the monastery of Jarrow, were overtaken by the united forces of Northumberland and Mercia, their leader perished in the defeat, and the remnant, who escaped to their shipping, were wrecked on the coast of Tynemouth.

792.—Finchale Priory, on the banks of the river Wear, was a place of some consequence at this time, as a synod was held here for the purpose of regulating church discipline and manners. Another was held here in 798, and a third in the year 810. Finchale is also famous as being the place where Godric lived 63 years, and practised unheard of austerities: he wore an iron shirt next his skin day and night, and is said to have worn out three; he mingled ashes with the flour from which he made his bread; and, lest it should be then too good, kept it three or four months before he ventured to eat it. In winter, as well as summer, he passed whole nights up to his chin in water, at his devotions. Like St. Anthony, he was often haunted by fiends in various shapes; sometimes in the shape of *beautiful damsels*, and so was visited by evil concupiscence, which he cured by *rolling himself naked among thorns and briars*. His body grew ulcerated; but, to increase his pain, he poured salt into his wounds. By these uncommon austerities, and by the miracles which he is said to have wrought, he obtained so much renown, that he was admitted into the calendar of saints.

800.—The monasteries of Tynemouth and Hartlepool were plundered by the Danes. In 832, an army of pirates from the same nation, made an attempt to land at Tynemouth, but were routed and driven back to their ships.

866.—During the ravages of Hungar and Hubba, the Danish adventurers, Tynemouth monastery was utterly destroyed. Berwick is mentioned as having been their landing place.

875. Several ships, with troops, commanded by Halfden, a Danish adventurer, entered the river Tyne, and were cantoned in the adjacent villages for the winter, it being then too late in the year to make any progress in the northern parts of Northumberland. On the opening of spring they began their ravages on this unfortunate country, and marked their progress with the greatest barbarities. The Danes exercised the greatest severities upon the religious, destroying the churches and other holy places, believing them the repositories of all the wealth of the country. On this occasion, Monkwearmouth, Jarrow, and Tynemouth monasteries, were plundered; but Lindisfarne, or Holy Island monastery, was the object of their chief attention. Revived from former devastations, they conceived it contained abundant treasures, and, with merciless avarice and disappointed hope of plunder, destroyed the monastery, and defaced every ornament of the church. Whilst the Danes were advancing from the river Tyne, Bishop Eardulph, the abbot, and others of the monastery, gathering up the holy relics, the sacred vessels, ornaments, and jewels of the altars and shrines; together with a ponderous stone crucifix, the remains of St. Cuthbert, the head of St. Oswald, the bones of Aidan, Eadbert, Eamfred, and Ethelwold, inclosed in one ark or shrine, fled from the island of Lindisfarne, where the episcopal see had been settled 241 years, and to which place, from this period, it was never restored. Their pious ardour must have been equal to any toil. They fled from place to place, without any certain rest, for almost a space of seven years, to avoid these merciless infidels.

883.—The bishop and abbot, with their train, in their various attempts to settle, at last moved the sacred remains to Chester-le-street, where Eardulph began to found a new cathedral.

880.—Gregory, king of Scotland, who was contemporary with Alfred, king of England, and like him was justly surnamed the Great, took Berwick by assault. The garrison consisted of Danes and Picts; the former he put to the sword but spared the latter. The king of Scots pursued the Danes into Northumberland, where he defeated them, then returned to Berwick and passed the winter.

924.—Adam Hilton, living in the time of King Athelstan, gave to the monastery of Hartlepool, a pix, or crucifix, which was in weight 25 ounces, in silver, and caused his arms to be engraven on it;—Argent, two bars azure, which are yet to be seen upon the gate of Hilton Castle, in the county of Durham.

933.—The Danes made a descent upon this island, when the fortress of Bamborough suffered greatly, but was soon afterwards restored and new works were added. A great booty fell into the hands of the invaders by the reduction of this place.

995.—The northern coast was again infested with these robbers, which induced Bishop Aldune, with the whole body of religious settled at Chester-le-street, together with their vassals and depen-

dents, to quit that place and travel to Ripon, carrying with them the remains of St. Cuthbert, the holy relics, and riches of the church, and also their cattle, goods, and effects.

995.—The see, which had been settled at Chester-le-street for 113 years, was for ever removed from thence, and that place totally deprived of all the wealth and honour dependent thereon. After an absence of about four months, they left Ripon, intending to return to Chester. As they approached the ground where Durham now stands, by a miraculous interposition, the carriage, on which the body of St. Cuthbert, with the other relics, was borne, became immoveable. The bishop admonished his company that they should fast and pray until the will of Heaven was revealed. Accordingly, after much pious abstinence, self-denial, and prayer, Eadmer, one of the most favoured of the attendants, received the revelation, and Dunholme was pronounced the place decreed by the powers above for the holy saint's rest on earth. No sooner had the bishop received the divine revelation, than he, with his followers, advanced with thanksgivings, to the appointed place, where, to shelter the holy relics for the present, they erected a small church of wood; after which, they erected a more complete edifice, constructed, after the general order of buildings at that time, of posts wattled with branches of trees, and covered with a compost of clay and cut straw. This was in the year 995, three years after which a church of stone was begun, and dedicated by Bishop Aldune on the 4th of September, A. D. 999, and the body of St. Cuthbert was placed therein with much solemnity and holy joy. Thus we are led to date the rise of the town of Durham. Tradition says, the place, by the revealed name, was wholly unknown to the bishop and his attendants, who wandered about for some time in search of it; and that the discovery was accidentally made by a woman's inquiries after her cow, which had strayed in Dunholme. This story receives some credit from the sculpture on one of the towers of the present cathedral, where the cow is represented with her attendants.

1015.—The Danes besieged Bamborough Castle, which they took and pillaged.

1018.—A great battle was ^{fought} found at Carham, between the Scots and English, the former of whom were victorious, and almost all the fighting men between Tweed and Tees were cut off, together with their chieftains; on which event, it is said by some authors, that Aldune, bishop of Durham, died broken hearted. Previous to this battle the inhabitants of the northern counties were alarmed at the appearance of a blazing comet, which, for thirty successive nights, threatened them with its fatal influence. This was afterwards supposed to have been the presage of the above terrible destruction.

1020.—About this time Elfrid, a priest of Durham, and a famous collector of the bones of saints, stole the body of St. Bede, from the church at Jarrow, and carried it to Durham, where it was honourably deposited in the same coffin with St. Cuthbert.

1040.—The city of Durham appears to have had some fortifica-

tions this year, at which time Duncan, king of Scotland, attacked it, when the townsmen sustained the assault of the invaders for some time, and, at length made a sally, in which they were victorious, the enemy being totally routed; and the heads of the Scots leaders, who fell, or were taken prisoners, were fixed round the market-place.

1042.—A church of stone was built at Chester-le-street by Bishop Ægelric, who came to the see this year. Previous to this time it had been of wood.

1055.—Tosti, King Harold's brother, was made earl of Northumberland.

1068.—Northumberland was invaded, and the town of Monkchester taken by Edgar Etheling, heir to the crown of England, together with Malcolm, king of Scotland, and some Danish pirates, whom William the Conqueror encountered in person, and overthrew on Gateshead Fell. Having recovered Monkchester, King William is said to have laid it almost level with the ground, to prevent its becoming in future an asylum to his enemies.

1069.—William the Conqueror sent Robert Cumyn, whom he had created earl of Northumberland, to Durham, with a guard of 700 veteran Normans to enforce his authority, and who permitted his soldiers, who were quartered in the city, to practice every species of cruelty and oppression against the inhabitants, who formed associations against the Normans, upon which Cumyn proscribed and murdered several of the landholders; this acted as a summons to the peasants, who immediately armed themselves and surrounded the city. Just at the dawn of the day the assailants broke open all the gates of the town, and flying in parties through every street, made a dreadful slaughter of the Normans, insomuch that the streets were filled with blood and carcasses. Many were shut up in the house where the earl lodged, but this was fired by the assailants and reduced to ashes. The blazing pile communicated with the cathedral, the western tower was observed to have caught the flames, and it was only to the sudden or miraculous shifting of the wind to the east, that the structure owed its preservation. Thus the earl, with his 700 guards (one man only, who escaped with his wounds) were put to death! The king, on hearing of the fate of Cumyn, marched northwards, and ravaged and destroyed the country in so merciless a manner, that for sixty miles, between York and Durham, he did not leave a house standing, reducing the whole district, by fire and sword, to a terrible desert, smoking with blood, and in ashes. The news of the king's approach was no sooner told in Durham than the bishop convened a chapter of his clergy, and the result of their deliberation was the removal of the body of St. Cuthbert to Lindisfarne; their first day's journey ended at Jarrow, the next night they reached Bedlington, and a third night brought them to Tughall,* and on the fourth they reached the island of

* The chapel of Tughall, now in ruins, was doubtless afterwards built upon the spot where the saint's bones had rested for the night. When this edifice was in repair, it constituted a chapel of ease to Bambrough. It was in use in 1630.

Lindisfarne. Here the saint's bones rested only four months, for, on the re-establishment of peace, on the 8th of April, 1070, the sacred remains of St. Cuthbert were again conveyed to Durham.

1070.—During an irruption of the Scots under Malcolm, king of Scotland, Monkwearmouth monastery was again destroyed, and many parts of the palatinate were ravaged by fire.

The same year Monkchester had a second visit from William the Conqueror, who marched through it on his route to Scotland, with a numerous army.

1071.—Copsi, who was created earl of Northumberland by King William, was put to death at Newburn, a village five miles west of Newcastle. Osulph, the preceding governor, expelled by the Conqueror to give place to Copsi, being forced into the woods and deserts, lay concealed till he had collected a few hardy troops, with these he beset a house where Copsi was at a feast; and pursuing him to the church, whither he had fled for sanctuary, Osulph, disregarding all veneration for things sacred, when put in competition with his desperate fortune and revenge, set fire to the holy pile, and as Copsi endeavoured to shun the flames, he was seized in the gate, and his head severed on the spot.

1072.—William the Conqueror passed again through Monkchester, on his way to Scotland; on this occasion, his enemy, King Malcolm, met him at Berwick, and paid him homage. He is said to have built the castle of Durham on his return.

1074.—This year three monks having been sent out of the province of Mercia into that of Northumberland, came to York, and besought Hugh, the son of Baldric, who was then viscount, to give them a guide to a place called Monkchester, that is the city of the monks (now Newcastle). Being conducted to this place, they stayed at it for some time; but when they could find there no vestiges of the ancient church of Christ, they went to Jarrow, then retaining little of its former splendour, and after inspecting its numerous monastic edifices and half-ruined churches, they began to repair it under the liberal patronage of Walcher, bishop of Durham. Their names were Aldwin, Ealfwin, and Rinfrid. By these three persons, the monasteries of Northumberland were restored. About this year Waltheof, earl of Northumberland, gave the monastery at Tynemouth, with all the lands and possessions thereof, together with the body of St. Oswin, to the monks of Jarrow, to which place they removed the sacred remains of the royal saint.

1079.—Malcolm, king of Scotland, came into England with a great army, and laid waste the county of Northumberland as far as the river Tyne, and slew many hundreds of men, carrying with them to their own country, a great deal of riches and treasure, besides captives.

1080.—Walcher, bishop of Durham, having purchased the earldom of Northumberland, became odious to the people by the severities of his government; but, particularly on account of not bringing to justice the murderers of a Saxon nobleman, named Liulph, and his family. This man was greatly revered by the Northumbrians, who waited an opportunity to revenge the massacre

of this illustrious family. Not long after this transaction, the bishop, in exercise of his civil jurisdiction, held a public assembly of his council and ministers, at Gateshead, whither the people repaired, whose appearance indicated their disposition for mischief. The bishop, being alarmed for his safety, caused his officers to assure the people that restitution would be made to the relatives of the deceased. The mob, spurning all proposals, beset the house with a clamour which struck the whole assembly with terror; and, on a watch word, "*short red, good red, slea ye the bishoppe,*" being pronounced, they rushed furiously on, drawing their arms, which, till then, had been concealed under their garments. The few guards the bishop brought with him, were put to the sword. The bishop retreated to the church, whither he summoned a few of the chief men of each party, to propose terms of amity. Those, who conceived they could influence the mob, went out to appease them; but, without respect of persons, many were slain. They then set fire to the church, and put every one to death that attempted to escape. The last of the assembly was the venerable prelate. Putting up a short prayer to heaven, he advanced, veiling his face, towards the howling multitude, and was instantly pierced to the heart with a lance; after which, they inhumanly mangled his body with their swords. This happened on the 14th of May, this year. The monks of Jarrow, on hearing the fate of the prelate, took a boat and came to the place, where they found the remains scarce to be known from his wounds. They conveyed the body to their monastery, from whence it was removed to Durham, and there privately interred in the chapter house. After the murder of the bishop, the insurgents marched to Durham, where they attempted to surprise the castle, but after remaining in possession of the city four days, were obliged to disperse and avoid by flight the impending storm of vengeance. The king, highly incensed, sent his brother Odo, bishop of Baieux, into the north, with orders to punish the insurgents, and to take vengeance for the murder of bishop Walcher and his retinue. Odo performed his task not as a bishop, but as a Norman soldier (he being at that time earl of Kent), and made Durham feel the extent of his power, by robbery, desolation, and murder. He stained his sacred vesture with the innocent blood of the relations of the rebellious; he robbed the church of Durham of a rich pastoral staff, which he pretended was taken by the soldiery, and reduced the province to a solitary desert.

1080.—The castle of Newcastle was built during the reign, and at the command of William the Conqueror, under the direction of Robert Curthose, his eldest son, on his return from an unsuccessful expedition against Malcolm, king of Scotland. As this building protected the bridge, and secured, at all times, a free pass for the English armies into Northumberland, it was a place of considerable importance. Rufus, however, was the first who had to employ his arms against it; for, in the rebellion, headed by Earl Mowbray, it was one of the castles seized by his adherents, in

1095. The walls of the castle inclosed an area of more than three acres. The walls of the tower have chambers within them, and are about fourteen feet thick. The entrance into the keep is by a flight of steps on the outside to the second story: a circular staircase, in the south-east corner, led down to the great hall, and below it to the dungeon. On the head of the outside staircase is a small oratory, and beneath it the king's chapel, a place of very rich Norman architecture. This castle, after being the temporary residence of kings, and enumerating amongst its constables some of the most illustrious names, is described, in 1590, as a place of refuge for thieves and vagabonds, flying from the justice of the town. In 1605, it was so completely stripped of its splendour, as to be let to the incorporated company of tailors, for what purpose is not known, for the paltry sum of 20*s.* a-year.



While the free burgesses assumed to themselves the exclusive right of carrying on trade and manufactories in the town, the Castle-garth continued the resort of pedlars, glovers, and chapmen of various descriptions, and is, even to this day, the rag fair of the town. The above cut shews its present appearance.

1086.—This year mention occurs of a nunnery at Newcastle. Leland says it was of the Benedictine order, and a MS. in the Bodleian library, ascribes its foundation to a baron de Hilton. This nunnery was situated on the east side of the street, near a place, which at present is called the Nuns' Gate, from a gate having been here which led to the nunnery.

1087.—William de Carileph, who succeeded bishop Walcher, was among the malcontents on the accession of William Rufus, and flying into Normandy, his temporalities were seized into the hands of the crown. John de Tailbois and Ernesius de Burone were made governors of the castle and palatinate, and it was not till the year 1091, that the bishop was restored.

1090.—Mowbray, earl of Northumberland, re-founded Tynemouth monastery, and filled it with black canons, and, out of enmity to the bishop of Durham, made it a cell to the monastery of St. Albans.

1091.—St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, appears to have been founded this year by Osmond, bishop of Salisbury.

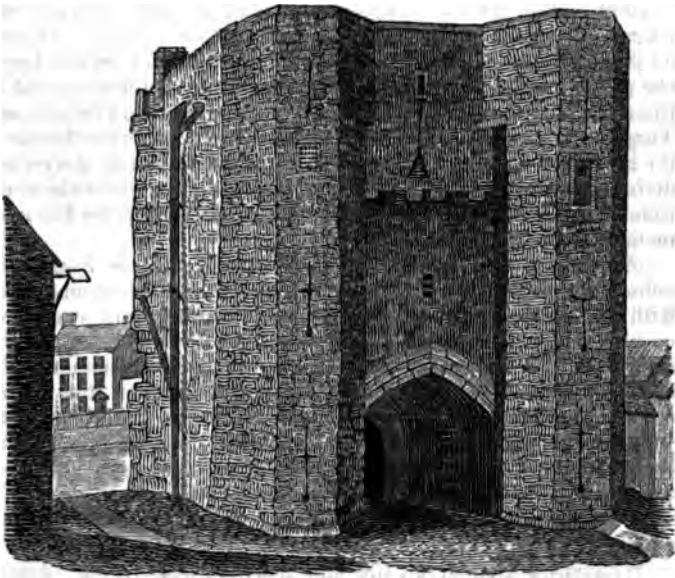
1093 (*Aug. 11*).—Carileph, bishop of Durham, thinking the church not magnificent enough for the remains of St. Cuthbert, pulled down the old church 76 years after its first erection, and began the present cathedral, the foundation stones of which were laid on the above day, by Malcolm, king of Scotland, Bishop Carileph, and Turgot, the prior. The bishop compelled the monks to labour in the holy work daily, excepting at meal times, and during prayer and divine service; but no considerable progress had been made at the time of his death, which happened within two years after the commencement of the structure.

Alnwick Castle underwent a remarkable siege from Malcolm, king of Scotland. The king having entered Northumberland with a great army, ravaged the country with fire and sword, but on besieging this castle, both he and his son were slain, and his army almost totally destroyed. The bodies of Malcolm and his son were interred in Tynemouth monastery. Agnes, the mother of Margaret, queen of Scotland, and Christina, her sister, after Malcolm was killed at Alnwick, incapable of enjoying society after that fatal catastrophe, retired to a nunnery in Newcastle, and took the sacred veil.—*See the end of the year 1774.*

1095.—Mowbray, earl of Northumberland, having raised the standard of rebellion against William Rufus, the son and successor of William the Conqueror, the king marched against the castle of Newcastle with a great army, and took it after a short siege, together with several of the earl's partizans. The earl converted Tynemouth monastery into a castle to defend his treason on this occasion: thither the king marched with his army against him, and after a siege of two months, took the castle by storm; he found the earl's brother therein, and made him his prisoner; but Mowbray had escaped, and taken refuge in Bamborough castle, the king besieged that also, but finding it impregnable, erected a castle over against it, in which he placed a garrison to continue the

blockade, and returned to the south. The besieged earl having been invited out by some of his partizans who were the guards of Newcastle, escaped and made towards that place: but being pursued, he retired a second time and took sanctuary in the church of St. Oswin, at Tynemouth, from whence he was dragged out by violence and made a prisoner.

1095.—During the reign of William Rufus, Newcastle was inclosed with a wall, as related by Harding; whilst Leland tells us in his *Itinerary*, that the walls were begun in Edward the First's reign, and not finished until the reign of Edward the Third. The principal gates in these walls were the Bridge-gate, Close-gate, the Postern, West-gate, New-gate, Pilgrim-street-gate, Pandon-gate, Wallknoll-gate, and Sand-gate. The whole of these gates are now pulled down, except Wallknoll-gate. Newgate was the last gate which was demolished. It was the town's gaol. This cut shews the appearance of the original north front of Newgate, after the wings and additional north building were taken down in 1823.



The Postern gate was remarkably strong, having gates of oak, iron doors, and a heavy portcullis. Through it, in the reign of Edward III. (1342) three hundred valiant men sallied by night, and rushing into the camp of the Scots, routed the whole army, and took Earl Murray prisoner in his tent.—*See the year 1342.*

According to Hutton's plan of Newcastle, published in 1772, the walls then standing from Close-gate to Sand-gate, were one mile and a half and a hundred yards.

1097.—It is not known at what time the ancient church at Earsdon, in Northumberland, was built, but mention is made of it so early as this year.

1098.—Edgar, heir to the crown of Scotland, in a fit of pious gratitude, presented Berwick to Carileph, bishop of Durham, because, under the banner of St. Cuthbert,* he had defeated Donald, who had usurped the Scottish throne. Flambard, successor to Carileph, disregarding the important gift of Edgar, made an irruption into Scotland, during the absence of Edgar at the English court, and returned to Durham laden with the spoil of the plundered borderers. This act of hostility and ingratitude, so exasperated the pious Edgar, that he not only complained to William Rufus, then king of England, who ordered immediate restitution, but likewise resumed the present he had made of the town of Berwick to the see of Durham.

1099.—Ralph Flambard succeeded Carileph in the see of Durham. This bishop was particularly solicitous about the works begun by his predecessor, and carried up the walls of the church to the roof. He caused the body of St. Cuthbert to be carried round the cathedral in a procession of monks, with a numerous train of attendants, and then deposited in a fine sepulchre, September 4, 1104. The bishop preached a sermon on this occasion. He built a stately shrine, called the *Feretory*, near the choir; this shrine was composed of costly marble, lined with gilt, and by the donations of numerous pilgrims, it became, in a short time, one of the richest altars in the kingdom.† He enlarged the common-hall of the monastery. The borough, of a strong natural situation, he rendered nobler and more defensible by a wall, which he erected from the church to the castle. The ground between the castle and the church, which was crowded with houses, he caused to be cleared of all buildings, and reduced into a level plain, for greater cleanness, and to prevent the hazard of fire. In 1112, he founded and endowed the hospital of St. Giles of Kepyer, near Durham, for the maintenance of a master and twelve brethren. He fortified the castle of Durham with a moat, and strengthened the bank of the river, over which, in 1120, he built an arched bridge of stone at the foot of the castle, now called Framwellgate bridge. In 1121, this prelate built Norham castle, in Northumberland, on the top of a steep rock, and moated it round.

* Edgar, on his way to Scotland to demand the crown, lay at Durham, where, in a vision, he saw St. Cuthbert, who bade him take courage, and assured him, that if he carried his banner along with him, his enemies should flee before him, and he should enjoy the throne of his ancestors. The next morning he obtained from the monastery the consecrated banner and became victorious.

† St. Cuthbert's shrine had the privilege of sanctuary, where fugitives were safe for 37 days. This respite allowed criminals a time for making restitution, or, under the feudal laws, they would have suffered immediate pains and punishments.—*See December 16, 1496.*

1110.—Tynemouth monastery, which had been so much destroyed in Earl Mowbray's insurrection, was re-built.

1112.—The church of St. Giles, in Durham, was dedicated. At the south side of the altar of this church lies a wooden effigy, representing a person in complete armour. This figure has been supposed to represent the first John Heath, of Kepyner, who was buried in the chancel in the year 1590.

The hospital of St. Mary Magdalen, Newcastle, is said to have been founded by King Henry I. for a master, brethren, and sisters, to receive persons afflicted with the leprosy, a dreadful contagious disease, which anciently appears to have been very common in this kingdom. This hospital stood between Vine Lane and the Barras Bridge. In 1611, King James incorporated this hospital with the chapel of St. Thomas à Becket, on Tyne-bridge. A chapel dedicated to St. James, which stood near the Barras-bridge, was supposed to have been the chapel of this hospital. A handsome gothic structure is now building on the site of this hospital, the last remains of which were cleared away for this purpose.

St. Leonard's hospital, on the hill above the village of Mitford, in Northumberland, was founded by Sir William Bertram, in the reign of King Henry I.

Brinkburn Priory was founded for Black Canons, in the time of King Henry I., by Roger Bertram, baron of Mitford, and dedicated to St. Peter. The church here has been long in ruins, but its remains speak its high antiquity. The north and south doors are charged with Saxon ornaments. The cemetery has been used so late as 1745.

1135.—David, king of Scots, entered England, and took Alnwick castle, and other chief places near the northern frontier. This king founded in Berwick a convent for Cistercian nuns.

1137.—A monastery was founded at Bamborough for canons regular of the order of St. Augustine.

1138.—David, king of Scotland, besieged Norham castle; a gallant defence was made for some time, but the castle being thinly garrisoned, and no succours arriving, the place was surrendered and the troops permitted to retire to Durham. The Scots, on this occasion, destroyed the town and castle. That part of the Scots army that plundered the western parts of Northumberland, while David ravaged its shores, were encamped at Warden, near Hexham.

This year, the abbey of Newminster seated on the banks of the river Wansbeck, near Morpeth, was founded by Ralph de Merley, and his lady, for Cistercian monks, and dedicated to the blessed Virgin. Its abbot was several times summoned to the parliaments of King Edward I.

1139.—There was a peace between the kings of England and Scotland, at the entreaty of Maud, King Stephen's queen, and niece to David. By this mediation it was accorded, that David, from Newcastle, where he then resided, and Stephen, from Durham, should send arbitrators for composing matters to the town of Chester-

le-street. David sent the archbishops of St. Andrews and Glasgow, Stephen those of Canterbury and York. The treaty was signed in the city of Durham.

1140.—William Cumyn, chancellor of Scotland, seized the castle of Durham on the death of Bishop Galfrid.

1144.—William Cumyn, nephew to the Scottish intruder, gathered together his men at the chapel of St. John, at Merrington, in the county of Durham, and began to turn the church into a castle. Three barons of the bishopric, to wit, Roger Conyers, Galfrid d' Escolland, and Bertram Bulmer, understanding of this sacrilege, and preferring death to the profanation of God's altar, collecting what force they hastily could, repaired to the spot to stay their lewd enterprize. William's men did not sustain the onset; some fled, others barred themselves in the church, round which they had nearly completed a fosse, and manning the tower and the out-works, which they had finished, vainly strove to drive off the assailants with darts and arrows; but the besiegers, reckless of wounds or death, forced their way through the windows, and, hurling fire brands on the defenders, were speedily masters of the place. During this period, Cumyn's soldiers burned the suburbs of Elvet, and St. Giles' gate, and Keyyer hospital, and St. Giles' church. Cumyn exercised unheard-of cruelties. Some of his prisoners were suspended across ropes with heavy weights attached to their neck and feet; others were repeatedly plunged in the frozen bed of the river; of others, the naked feet, protruded through an aperture in the wall, were exposed to all the severity of the night. The punishment of the *boot*, or something resembling it, seems to have been also inflicted. Imprisonment, chains, and famine, completed the catalogue: The very name of Durham, at this time, became a source of terror, and a place formerly consecrated by religious reverence, was feared and detested as a kind of *hell upon earth*.

The bishops of Durham, amongst their extensive and valuable privileges, enjoyed the right of a mint, and of coining their own money, which was continued to them for several centuries; commencing in the reign of King Stephen, and ending with the suppression of the monasteries under King Henry VIII.

1146.—Osbert, the nephew of Bishop Flambard, gave the church of Middleham, to the prior and convent of Durham, with the consent of William, then bishop. Tradition attributes the building of the present structure to Anthony Beke. The whole building has had buttresses, which are still perfect, except those of the north aisle where the wall was taken down in 1802.

1147.—Alnwick abbey, for Premonstratensian Canons, was founded by Eustace Fitz John, who, by his marriage with Beatrice, the daughter of Ivo de Vesey, became Lord of the baronies of Alnwick and Malton. From the chronicle of this house, it appears that divers of the Percys were interred here, and that some of that family had been admitted to the brotherhood.

1153.—Hugh Pudsey, who was elected bishop of Durham this year, began a new chapel at the east end of the cathedral, with the

intention of dedicating it to the honour of the Virgin Mary, to which females might have free access for devotional exercises; but, before the work had proceeded far, vast clefts were discovered in the building, which was considered as a manifestation of the saint's displeasure, having had, when living, a strong antipathy to the presence of women, and which induced the bishop to relinquish his purpose. Pudsey having failed in his attempts at the east end, commenced building a chapel at the west end, which he called the *Galilee*. A monk preached in it once a week from an iron pulpit, which stood under the western window of its middle aisle, to a congregation of females, who at that time were not allowed to enter the church itself. The *Galilee* was used as the Consistory Court of the diocese, from a period long antecedent to the Reformation, until the year 1796. No divine service appears to have been performed in it from the dissolution till the year 1828, when it was fitted up with free sittings, and opened on Easter-day, for Sunday evening prayers, and a sermon during the summer months. The *Galilee* is from east to west 50 feet, and from north to south 80 feet wide. For the exclusion of females from the Cathedral, see the years 1333 and 1417.

1154.—Henry II., who began his reign this year, granted a weekly market to Norton, in the County of Durham, to be held on the Sunday!

1160.—The church at Darlington was erected by Bishop Pudsey about this year. It is a spacious structure in the form of a cross, with a tower rising from the centre.

1164.—Hugh Pudsey, bishop of Durham, granted to the burgesses of Gateshead the liberty of their forest there, under certain restrictions. By this charter the bishop grants also to the burgesses, *that each shall have, in right of his burgage, similar liberties to those enjoyed by the burgesses of Newcastle in right of their burgage.*

1165.—The abbey at Blanchland, was founded for Premonstratensian Canons, by Walter de Bolbeck.

1170.—Bishop Pudsey built the bridge at Durham, called Elvet Bridge. He re-built the borough of Elvet, which was reduced to ashes under Cumyn's usurpation. He also re-endowed Keyper hospital, and restored the buildings which had been destroyed by Cumyn's soldiers. This prelate built the city wall from the north gate, afterwards called the Gaol-gate, to the south or Water-gate, which ran along the brink of the hill, above the river, opposite to Elvet. He re-built part of the castle of Durham, which, during his episcopacy, suffered by fire. In 1176, he granted a charter to the burgesses of Durham, that they should be for ever exempt from the customs called in-toll and out-toll, and from merchets and heriots: and to have like free customs as Newcastle.

1171.—Hartlepool is first expressly mentioned, when Hugh, earl of Bar, son or nephew to Bishop Pudsey, brought his fleet, with an auxillary body of Flemings, into St. Hilda's bay. The armament (which was intended to assist William of Scotland in his invasion of England) consisted of forty knights, with their retinues, and five

hundred foot. This circumstance proves that the port had been of some consequence anterior to this date.

1171.—The chapel of St. Thomas à Becket (the martyr), at the north end of Tyne bridge, Newcastle, must have been founded posterior to this time, as in this year, that prelate was assassinated in Canterbury cathedral.

1173.—Berwick, with the adjacent country, was laid in ashes, and in the following year, Earl Duncan re-kindled its embers and butchered the inhabitants.

1174.—William, king of Scotland, invaded England. Committing the most dreadful devastations as far as the banks of the Tyne, he sat down before Prudhoe castle, but was obliged to raise the siege. He now retreated and besieged Alnwick castle, in a place adjoining to which, amidst a troop of horsemen, apprehending no danger, and diverting himself with the exercise of chivalry in an open plain, he was taken prisoner by Ranulph de Glanville, with a band of horse, in which were about four hundred knights. This gallant party, who had set out from Newcastle early on the morning of the 12th of July, returned the same evening, bringing the grand enemy of their master along with them. This William, king of Scots, surnamed the Lion, was afterwards confined in the castle of Richmond, till King Henry removed him, and imprisoned him at Rouen, in Normandy. The Scots king was afterwards delivered up at York, for the ransom of 4000l.; and a dreadful rencounter took place at the bridge of Newcastle, on his return to his kingdom, between his own guards and the people of that town, who doubtless, were highly exasperated at the redemption of an enemy, whom they had so great cause both to hate and fear.

This year, the castle and fortifications of Norham, were restored by Bishop Pudsey. He built the great tower, which remains to this day.

1179.—At the distance of about three miles from Darlington, at a place called Oxenhall, are cavities in the earth denominated *Hell Kettles*, to the origin of which are attached many fabulous conjectures. The chronicles of Tynemouth and Brompton relate, "That, on Christmas-day (in the above year), at Oxenhall, in the outskirts of Darlington, in the bishoprick of Durham, the earth raised itself up to a great height, in the manner of a lofty tower, and remained all that day till the evening (as it were fixed and immovable), when it sank down with such a horrid noise that it terrified all the vicinity; when the earth absorbed it, and there formed a deep pit." Mr. Camden supposed this to be the place called *Hell Kettles*, and that their origin had been subterranean convulsions, as above stated; but how can this be reconciled? Here only one pit is mentioned, whilst the *Hell Kettles* are four. The most probable conjecture is that they are old wrought-out marle pits.

1180.—Sherburn hospital, near Durham, was founded by Bishop Pudsey for 65 poor lepers, a master and other officers. Each leper was to have a loaf and a gallon of beer daily; three days in the week flesh meat, and four days fish; so that one dish of meat,

fish, cheese, or butter, should serve two; but on great days, two dishes were to be provided, particularly on Quadragesima-day, when they were allowed fresh salmon, or other fish, if they could be had, for one dish; and on Michaelmas-day, they were to have geese, a goose to every four. They were allowed, yearly, three yards of woollen cloth, russet or white, six yards of linen, and six yards of canvas, with other necessaries, as trusses of straw and bundles of reeds, with four yule clogs for the vigils of our Saviour.

1183.—About this year, Bishop Pudsey caused a general survey to be made of all the ancient demesne lands and possessions of his bishoprick, in the form and manner of Domesday-book, which is recorded in a small folio, consisting of 24 pages, written in a bad hand, called **BOLDON BUKE**, now remaining in the office of the bishop's auditor, in Durham. This survey being alphabetically arranged, Boldon occurs first, hence the name **BOLDON BUKE**. There is a neat transcript of it in the Chapter Library at Durham, made by Dr. Hunter, and another is extant in the Bodleian Library at Oxford.

1188.—The great convention for the settlement of the tenths, demanded by king Henry II., was held at Wark, in Northumberland. Hugh, bishop of Durham, was the chief of King Henry's envoys, and was met by William the Lion, of Scotland, his bishops, earls, barons, and a vast concourse of inferior vassals, when the Scots rejected the demand with the utmost contempt.

St. Mary's hospital and chapel, in Westgate Street, Newcastle, was founded in the time of King Henry II. by Aselack, of Killinghowe (Killingworth). He built it on his own ground, and placed in it two friars regular and a chaplain, to serve God and the poor. It is now the Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth.

1192.—Hugh Pudsey, bishop of Durham, was created earl of Northumberland.

1199.—A license was obtained from the crown for a market to be held in Morpeth, and an annual fair on Magdalen-day. At that time it was the barony of the Merley family, who had held it from the time of the Conquest, without any part of it being alienated.

This year, Berwick bridge, which was of wood, was carried away by an extraordinary inundation, and was restored by William, king of Scotland.

1200.—King John granted a charter to the men of Hartlepool, that they should be free burgesses, and should enjoy the same liberties and laws as the free burgesses of Newcastle. He also granted a weekly market on Wednesdays, and in 1216 confirmed the grant, and added the privilege of a yearly fair, for three days, on the feast of St. Lawrence, and two days following. Hartlepool possesses three seals of great antiquity. The two larger, which have, without doubt, formed the obverse and reverse of the same seal, were, in all probability, made when King John granted this charter, and the third, from the inscription, belongs to the office of mayor.

The same year, the churches of Bishopton and Sockburn, in the county of Durham, were given to the house of Sherburn, by Roger

Conyers and Robert, his son and heir. The former church was, a few years ago, repaired and modernised, and the lead exchanged for slate.

1203.—King John held a personal conference with William, king of Scotland at Norham castle, touching the demand made by the Scots king of the northern counties, but nothing was determined, and King John returned in great displeasure.

1204.—King John, in order to open for himself a passage into Scotland by the reduction of Berwick, began to erect and fortify a castle at Tweedmouth, but William of Scotland, razed this building to the ground, and killed or put to flight the workmen and those who were appointed to protect them.

1205 (*Jan. 14*).—A very severe frost commenced, which continued till the 14th of March. In 1217, another intense frost commenced, which lasted fifteen weeks.

1209.—King John came with a great army to Norham; the king of Scotland then assembling his troops at Roxburgh, a dreadful war seemed to be threatened from King John's extravagant demands: but, by the intervention of the nobility, the two monarchs agreed to hold a conference, for settling their disputes, at Newcastle; to which place the king of Scotland immediately repaired, attended by his brother David, and a large train of nobles; but, being taken suddenly ill, a truce was concluded on till his health was restored. The dispute remaining unsettled, each monarch again prepared for war. But a second interposition of the nobility occasioned another conference at Norham, in the same year, when a treaty of peace was concluded between William, king of Scotland, and King John.

1210.—Alexander, the son of William, king of Scotland, rendered homage and fealty to John, king of England, at Alnwick.

1212.—King John granted and confirmed to the burgesses of Newcastle, and to their heirs, the town and all things belonging to it to *fee farm*, (on condition that they paid to him, and his heirs, an hundred pounds per annum, viz.:—£50. at Easter, and the other £50. at the feast of St. Michael,) except the rents, prizes, and leases, in the part of the said town which he reserved for himself. He also granted to them an hundred and ten shillings and sixpence of rent of escheat, to be divided amongst those people, who lost their rents on account of the ditch or fosse, and the new work which was carried on under the castle towards the river. This was ordered to be so divided that they were to receive of it in proportion to their loss. King John, who had a great predilection for Newcastle, fixed his residence in the castle there during a considerable part of his reign. That king made a trench round the castle, and also strengthened it with some new and additional works towards the river Tyne. He granted to Newcastle the fair called Lammas Fair.

1213.—King John marched through Newcastle, on his route against Scotland, with his army, but the Scottish king met him on the borders, and a reconciliation ensued. On this occasion King John resided at Durham several days.

1215.—The barons of Northumberland had recourse to Alexander II., king of Scotland, for protection against King John; and, in order to obtain it, they did homage to Alexander at Felton. King John, in resentment of the defection of the barons, advanced to the borders; and, amongst other places, he burnt Wark, Alnwick, Mitford Castle, and Morpeth. Camden states, that Morpeth was set on fire by the inhabitants themselves, to prejudice King John, who would have rested there in his infamous expedition.

1215 (*Nov. 17*).—Alexander II., king of Scotland, after investing Norham castle for forty days, with a mighty army, was obliged to raise the siege.

This year, King John constituted in Newcastle a society of free merchants. The grant to the merchant adventurers of Newcastle is a year earlier than that to the merchants of London.

1216.—King John plundered and burnt the town and castle of Berwick, where he and his mercenaries perpetrated the most barbarous cruelties. For, in order to extort from the inhabitants a discovery of their money and goods, they hung up both men and women by the joints of their hands and feet, and inflicted on them various other tortures.

In the reign of King John, Marmaduke de Tueng, and Margaret his wife, bequeathed a house and some land, at Hartlepool, in the county of Durham, for the singular purpose of purchasing smocks for the nuns of Newcastle.

This year, St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, appears to have suffered by fire.

1217.—Alexander of Scotland, having incurred the displeasure of the Roman pontiff for his adherence to the king of France, brought himself and his people under the weight of ecclesiastical censure, but upon his submission and promise of future obedience, the archbishop of York and the bishop of Durham, met at Berwick, to absolve him from the sentence of excommunication, which was performed in the castle, Alexander attending in person.

1218.—It is not known at what time St. Andrew's church, in Newcastle was built, but mention occurs of it this year.

1230.—The king of Scots brought to Berwick a convent of Dominicans, which King Edward III. removed.

1233.—The great central tower of Durham cathedral, which was formerly called the lantern, was built as high as the gallery by Prior Melsonby, who was elected this year, and finished by Prior Hugh, of Darlington, who was elected in 1258, and who erected the upper tower, in which the bells are hung. The eastern transept, generally called the nine altars, is supposed to have been finished by Prior Horton, who succeeded to the priory in 1289, and who also placed the roof on the choir. The whole length of this venerable pile, including the *Galilee*, is 461 feet, and the height of the middle tower is 214 feet.

1234.—There was a grievous plague at Newcastle, which continued for three years.

The same year, a chapel was founded at Stockton, which becoming

ruinous, and too small for the increased population of the place, the building of a new place of worship was necessary.— *See June 5, 1710.*

1235.—King Henry III. granted a special liberty to the men of Newcastle that no Jew should reside amongst them.

1236.—The king of Scotland demanded the county of Northumberland, and King Henry made no scruple to purchase a peace by granting him a yearly pension of 80 merks.

1238.—This year, mention is made of silver mines in the county of Durham.

1239 (*Dec. 1*).—King Henry III. granted a charter to Newcastle, to dig coals and stones in the common soil of that town, without the walls thereof, in a place called the Castle Field, and the Forth. Here, it is supposed, the first coals about Newcastle were wrought. In 1280, the coal trade had increased so much as to double the worth of the town of Newcastle, and in the latter end of Queen Elizabeth's reign, a duty of four pence per chaldron upon coals produced £10,000 a-year. After the great fire in London, in 1666, duties were laid upon this article to assist in rebuilding St. Paul's and fifty parish churches in that city. In the year 1677, Charles II. granted to his natural son, Charles Lennox, duke of Richmond, and his heirs, a duty of one shilling a chaldron on coals, which continued in the family till it was purchased by government in 1800, for the annual payment of £19,000.

This year, there was a drought at Newcastle for the space of three months, succeeded by a continual rain, for the like time, and in the following year, there was a great dearth and mortality.

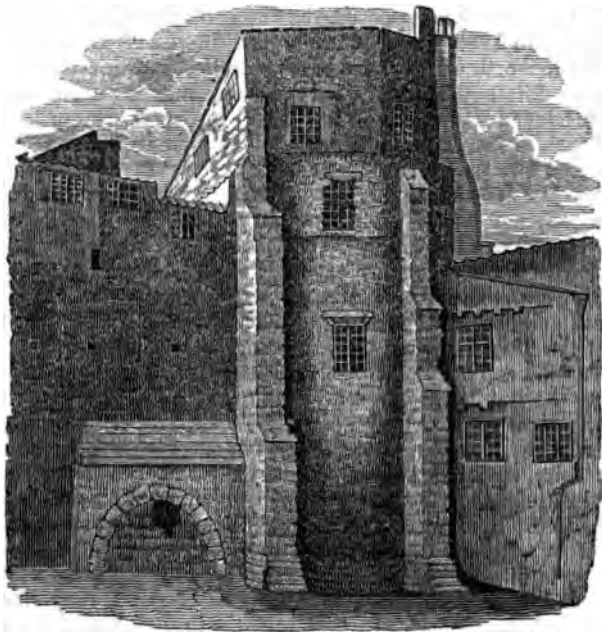
1240.—Hulne abbey, near Alnwick, was founded about this time. Among the English barons who went to the holy wars in the reign of King Henry III. were William de Vesey, lord of Alnwick, and Richard Gray, two eminent chieftains in the Christian army. Led by curiosity, or devotion, they visited the monks of Mount Carmel, and there unexpectedly found a countryman of their own, named Ralph Fresborn, a Northumberland gentleman, who had signalized himself in a former crusade, and, in consequence of a vow, had taken upon himself the monastic profession in that solitude. When Vesey and Gray were about to return to England, they strongly importuned the superior of the Carmelites to permit their countryman to return with them; which was at length granted, on condition that they would found a monastery of Carmelites in their own country. After their return, Fresborn fixed upon this spot, from the great resemblance it bore to Mount Carmel, in Palestine. The famous biographer, John Bayle, was a member of the Carmelite order, and lived and studied in this place. After having presided here with great reputation and sanctity, Fresborn at length died, and was buried in the monastery about the year 1274.

1244.—The sister kingdoms had nearly come to an open rupture, the king of England being at Newcastle with an army, and the king of Scots with another at Ponteland. A peace, however, was agreed upon, through the mediation of the archbishop of York.

1244.—This year the Scots besieged Prudhoe castle, but were obliged to raise the siege.

About this time, the house and chapel, now in ruins, at Beaurepaire, near Durham, were founded by Prior Bartram. Prior Fossour, between the years 1342 and 1374, made Beaurepaire his favourite residence, and died there. Their ruin is said to have been completed by the Scots armies when they occupied Durham in 1641 and 1644.

1248.—The Black-gate, which was the main entrance to the castle of Newcastle, was built by Henry III. and cost £514. 15s. 11d. It had two portcullises, one without the gate, and another within it.



This view of the east end of the Black-gate was taken in 1822, when the old houses on the Side were pulled down, for the purpose of widening that street and rebuilding

This year, the hospital of St. Edmund the Confessor, and St. Cuthbert, in Gateshead, was founded and endowed by Bishop Farnham. It was for a master and three brethren. This building is supposed to occupy the site of a monastery, which appears from Bede to have been established here before the year 653.

The greatest part of the town of Newcastle, together with the bridge there, was this year destroyed by fire. After this catastrophe, various bishops granted indulgencies to all those who assisted

in the repairing Tyne bridge, in consequence of which many benefactions were made to it.

1249.—A mandate occurs, whereby King Henry III. commanded the bailiffs of Newcastle to elect four persons to be moniers in that town, and four others to have the custody of the royal mints there. Coins were struck at Newcastle by King Henry I., II. and III., and by Edward I. and II.

1250.—This year, a market was held at Mitford, near Morpeth.

1251.—Sir Peter Scott was the first chief magistrate of Newcastle, who had the title of mayor; from this time to the year 1400, the town was governed by a mayor and four bailiffs, who were elected annually.

The monastery of the Black Friars, in Newcastle, was founded by Sir Peter Scott and by Sir Nicholas Scott, his son, who was one of the four bailiffs of the town. This monastery was situate near the head of Westgate-street. Portions of it are yet remaining.

1255.—King Henry III. visited Newcastle; a desire to see his daughter, the queen of Scots, was probably the cause of this journey. He was accompanied by his queen, and their interview with the king and queen of Scots, was at Wark castle.

This year, King Henry III., after settling the affairs of Scotland, stopped at Alnwick on his way southward.

The Carmelites, or White Friars, had their first residence in Newcastle, in St. Mary's priory, upon Walknoll, which, by license of King Henry III., they acquired to themselves and successors in fee of John de Byker. They removed in 1307 to the house of the Friars of the Sac, at the foot of Westgate-street.

1256.—Adjoining the church at Warkworth, in Northumberland, was a cell for two Benedictine monks, from Durham, founded by Bishop Farnham, this year, and endowed with the appropriation of the church of Branxton.

1258.—The house of the Franciscan, or Grey Friars, at Hartlepool, must have been founded at this time, as, in that year, a chapter of the order was holden at Narbonne, in France, when, in the enumeration of their houses in England, Hartlepool is mentioned as being under the custody of Newcastle. There are no remains of this building at present, but "The Friary" is supposed to have been built out of its ruins, or occupying its site. This religious institution was dissolved in the 37th year of the reign of Henry VIII.

1259.—By an order made between the town of Newcastle and the prior and convent of Durham, among other things it was stipulated, that the tenants of the latter, at South Shields, should have liberty to bake and brew for themselves only, but not for the use of strangers.

1263.—This year, a blazing star appeared and continued for the space of three months.

1265.—A monastery of Friars Preachers was founded at

Bamborough, by King Henry III. Leland calls it "a fayre college a little without the towne now clean gone downe."

1268.—King Henry III. appears to have made a grant of Newcastle upon Tyne, among many other places, to his son Edmund, and his lawful heirs.

At this time, the Friars of the order of the Sac, or of the penance of Jesus, were settled in Newcastle. Their monastery stood at the foot of Westgate-street. This house was granted by Edward III. to the Carmelites, or White Friars, of the Wallknoll, on condition that Walter de Carleton, the only surviving brother, was supported during his life as became his rank.

The Franciscan, or Grey Friars, had their house in Newcastle, near, or upon the site of the mansion of Major George Anderson, Anderson Place, which Grey calls "a princely house built out of the ruins of the fryers." It was founded by the opulent family of the Carlols, in the time of Henry III. The scholastic Doctor Hugh, of Newcastle, belonged to this house. Duns Scotus also entered into the order of the minors here. This celebrated scholar was born at Embleton, in Northumberland, was educated at Oxford, and at Paris became the opposer of Aquinas. Friar Martin, of Alnwick, another great scholar, took the habit of St. Francis in this convent, and was buried in it in 1336.

1270.—A house of Carmelites, or White Friars, was founded at Berwick, by Sir John Grey.

1272.—The hospital at Greatham, in the county of Durham, was founded by Bishop Stichill, for a master, five other priests, two clerks, and forty poor brethren, to be chosen from the most indigent within the manors of the bishop. By a charter of King James, July 20, 1610, the brethren are reduced to thirteen poor and needy men bachelors, and stricken in years. It is not easy to form any opinion as to the appearance of the original buildings of the hospital; they seem to have stood on a plot of ground, which now forms a lawn, in front of the present structure. John William Egerton, eldest son of the bishop of Durham, was collated to the mastership of this hospital in 1785. In 1803, he succeeded to the earldom of Bridgewater, and in the same year, he restored the buildings which had become ruinous. The foundation stone of an entirely new building was laid on a plan of Wyatt's, September 15, 1803, and was completed in the following year. The chapel of the hospital having become ruinous was taken down in 1786, and the present neat structure reared at the expense of the master. In the south wall of the transept, at the west end of the old chapel, was an arched recess, under which lay a wooden figure. As this had to be taken down, the contents of the tomb beneath were fully explored. Under a marble slab was discovered a stone coffin, containing a complete skeleton, with a chalice of pewter or lead lying on the left side, which seemed to have fallen from the hands, which had been clasped on the breast. A portion of the shoes or sandals were also found in the coffin.

1272 (*June 12*).—The Scots swore fealty to Edward, king of England, at Berwick.

1275.—On St. Nicholas' eve great earthquakes were felt in Newcastle, with dreadful thunder and lightning, with a blazing star, and a comet in the appearance of a great dragon, which terrified the people.

1277.—The bishop of Durham having complained to Edward I. charging the Scottish monarch with having made certain encroachments upon his territories, to settle which, delegates from England and Scotland met at Tweedmouth, but the meeting broke up without a reconciliation.

1278.—It appears to have been customary for the king of Scotland, the archbishop of York, the prior of Tynemouth, the bishop of Durham, and Gilbert de Umfreville (by their bailiffs), to meet the justices coming to Newcastle, to hold pleas, and ask their liberties of them, when they came from the parts of Yorkshire, at the head of Gateshead, at a certain well there called "*The Chille Welle*," or at "*Fourstones*," when they came from Cumberland.

1280.—The justices itinerant held their courts in the churches of St. Nicholas and St. Andrew, in Newcastle.

September 18.—This year, the king gave leave to the Black Friars of Newcastle, to make the little gate, called the gate of the Warden's Close, in the town's wall. This gate was in the wall near where the House of Recovery now stands.

1281.—A "cockettum," or custom-house appears as being established in Newcastle at this time.

1283.—King Edward I. summoned to his parliament, at Shrewsbury, two representatives from Newcastle.

The church at Bishop Middleham, in the county of Durham, is said to have been built by Anthony Beke, who was made bishop in the above year. The font of this church is a fine old bason of Stanhope marble. In the parochial register, deaths by the plague are frequently mentioned.

Leland gives the following account of the Trinity-house, in Newcastle:—"There was a howse at Barwike, *Ordinis S. Trinitatis*; but *Anthony Beke*, byshope of Duresme, destroyid it, and then one *William Wakefild*, master of the house in *Barwike*, at the defacinge it came to *New Castelle*, and by the aide of *Gul. Acton* and *Laurence Acton*, bretherne, both marchaunts of *New Castelle*, buildid within the towne of *New Castelle*, a house of the religion *S. Trinitatis*, where *Wakefild*" hymself was first master. *Anthony Beke*, was bishop of Durham, from 1283 to 1310, between which years, according to the above account, the foundation of the Trinity-house of Newcastle must be placed.

1286.—It is not known at what time the old church of All Saints, in Newcastle, was built, but mention is made of it this year.

1287.—This year, St. John's church, in Newcastle, is said to have been built. The wooden spout, down which, in papal times, the dove, on the day of Pentecost, was let, to represent the descent

Carham was burnt by the Scots under Wallace, whose encampment gave name to an adjacent field. In King Edward's letter to Pope Boniface, he describes their cruelties in the following most horrible manner:—"The Scots inhumanly destroyed an innumerable multitude of his subjects, burnt monasteries, churches, and towns, with an unpitiful and savage cruelty, slew infants in their cradles, and women in child-bed, barbarously cutting off women's breasts, and burnt in a school, whose doors they first built up, about two hundred young men."

1297.—This year, the first two burgesses, upon record, who were chosen for Newcastle, were John Scot, and Peter Graper, or Draper, who represented this town in a parliament, held at York the above year, the 26th of Edward I.

1298.—At a parliament held at York, there was a general summons to appear in arms, at Newcastle, within eight days, to proceed against the Scots.

1299.—Pandon, anciently a distinct town from Newcastle, was united thereto by a charter of King Edward I. The kings of Northumberland, after the departure of the Romans, are said to have had one of their palaces in Pandon.

This year, King Edward I. restored to the monks of Tynemouth, certain free customs, which the crown had deprived them of, and granted the prior to have all pleas concerning his men, lands, and tenements, to be pleaded and determined by his own justices, the king's justices not being permitted to enter his liberty.

Dec. 7.—The same year, there appears to have been a chapel at Heaton, near Newcastle, which was honoured with the presence of King Edward I., to hear a boy-bishop perform the vespers of St. Nicholas therein, on which occasion, he gave to this clerical phenomenon, and certain boys that came to sing with him, the sum of 40*s.*

This year, a ship is mentioned belonging to Hartlepool, with a crew of 27 men, which, together with two barges, were employed in the transport of provisions, for the use of the king's army at Stirling and Edinburgh.

1300.—King Edward I. was at Durham, as a mediator between the bishop and his convent, touching their then bitter dissensions.

This year, King Edward offered a clasp of gold, of the value of six merks, at the shrine of St. Oswyn, at Tynemouth.

Alnwick church was founded in the reign of King Edward I., probably about this year.

1301.—About this year, King Edward I. ordered the countess of Buchan, to be placed in a wooden cage, in the shape of a crown, and shut up in one of the towers of Berwick castle, for crowning Robert Bruce, at Scoone. She was attended by two English women. After remaining six years in this confinement, she was released by the clemency of King Edward II. on his accession to the throne.

1302.—King Edward I. was at Newcastle, in the beginning of this year.

1303.—King Edward I, mustered that victorious army at Berwick, with which he penetrated the remotest parts of Scotland, and completed its conquest. During the king's absence in Scotland, his queen resided at Tynemouth monastery.

This year, a fair was granted to Tynemouth, but was revoked the following year, on the petition of the town of Newcastle.

1305 (*Aug. 23*).—William Wallace, the Scottish hero, after experiencing different reverses of fortune, was betrayed into the hands of his enemies. He was taken to London, tried by the laws of England, and there executed on the above day. One half of his body was ordered to be exposed on Berwick bridge. Wallace's stature and strength were gigantic, his aspect and address pleasing and attractive; he was subtle in devising, and dexterous in the execution of the most adventurous and perilous projects. Many persons of note, among whom was Neil, the brother of Robert Bruce, were taken prisoners with Wallace, and sent to Berwick, where they were condemned to be hanged, drawn, and quartered.

1306.—John de Seyton, one of the esquires of King Robert Bruce, having been taken prisoner, was conducted to Newcastle, and there hanged.

This year, judgment was given in parliament, that the prior of Tynemouth, who had built a quay at North Shields, within the flood mark of the river Tyne, should remove it at his own cost. The following year, the prior of Tynemouth caused a pillory to be erected in that village.

1310 (*March 3*).—Died at Eltham, near London, Anthony Beke, bishop of Durham, and, by the Pope, made patriarch of Jerusalem. This was the first prelate of Durham, who was buried within the walls of the cathedral; his predecessors had been restrained from sepulture within the sacred edifice, by a reverential awe for the body of St. Cuthbert, and on this occasion from some motive of superstition, the corpse was not allowed to enter the doors, although a passage was broken through the wall for its reception, near the place of interment. This prelate granted to the town of Stockton, a weekly market on Wednesday, and an annual fair on the feast of the translation of St. Thomas à Becket, and eight following days.

This year, King Edward II. was at Newcastle. The same year, the king, queen, and nobles spent their winter at Berwick.

This year, the castle and barony of Alnwick, came into the possession of the Percys, a family of great distinction in England, from the time of the Conquest.

1311.—About the latter end of this year, a great confederacy was formed by the nobles and others of England, called Contrarians and Ordainers, against Piers Gaveston, the well-known minion of King Edward II. The king retired with him to York, where he kept his christmas, and received a petition, either to deliver him up or expel him the kingdom. Having no inclination to do either, he retreated still farther north with him to Newcastle, where they continued some time. The incensed barons, headed by the earl of

Lancaster, and accompanied by all the forces they could raise, pursued him thither. The king, having received intelligence of their approach, fled with his hated companion, to Tynemouth, where his queen, then pregnant and near her delivery, at that time resided; from thence, having procured a vessel in the river Tyne, notwithstanding her tears and intreaties, not to abandon her in that place, he sailed with Gaveston to Scarborough. The earl of Lancaster, after he had taken possession of Newcastle, sent down to Tynemouth, to condole with the afflicted queen, whom reasons of state forbade him to visit in person. The said earl, who, with the barons, had entered Newcastle the same day it was deserted by the king and his minion, seized the effects which their great haste had prevented them from removing with them. In Gaveston's baggage were found many jewels of great value; of these they took an exact inventory; and, after his death, restored them to the king.

1312.—Robert Bruce, king of Scotland, at the head of a powerful army, entered Northumberland, and, after burning Hexham and Corbridge, marched across Durham with such rapidity, that he surprised the inhabitants of the city of Durham in their beds, and laid the suburbs in ashes. Here the Scots divided their forces, and a party under Sir James Douglas, directed their march to the coast, and, after firing and plundering Hartlepool, retreated loaded with spoil. The Scottish monarch attempted to surprise Berwick, by an escalade in the night; but, after ladders of rope were fixed, the place was saved by the barking of a dog, which alarmed the garrison, and the assailants were repulsed with considerable loss.

This year, Bishop Kellaw granted to the town of Sedgefield, a weekly market, to be held on the Friday. "On the complaint of John Whitchurch, the rector, that the Friday market was neglected, and that the chapmen and others exposed their merchandise, and transacted their business on the Sundays," Bishop Bury renewed and confirmed Kellaw's grant.

1313.—By an inquisition taken this year at Newcastle, it was found that the castle of that town, and all the edifices about it, were in good repair.

1314.—King Edward II. was again at Newcastle, on his route to Berwick, where, previous to the battle of Bannockburn, so disastrous to the English, he rendezvoused his army, consisting of 40,000 horse and 52,000 foot; they were in part lodged within the town, and the rest in tents without the walls. The carriages attending this army were numerous, as no supplies could be drawn from a country desolated by war and wasted by famine. Malmsbury says, if they had passed in one line, they would have extended sixty leagues in length. After the battle of Bannockburn, the Scots followed up their successes, laying Northumberland and Durham under heavy contribution. In the succeeding year, they again penetrated into the bishopric, where they particularly plundered Hartlepool. This place, and the manor of Hart, had formed part of the extensive possessions of Robert Bruce, previous to his ascending the Scottish throne, and it is very natural to suppose,

that, after it had been wrested from his family, and given to Robert de Clifford, earl marshal of England, who was slain at Bannockburn, it would become more particularly an object of jealousy, and consequently of plunder and destruction. After the battle of Bannockburn, King Edward II. returned to Berwick, from which place he issued a proclamation respecting his *privy seal*, which had been lost in that sanguinary conflict.

1314.—Harbottle Castle was demolished by the Scots, but was afterwards restored. This was part of the possessions of the Umfrevilles of Prudhoe, who held it by the service of keeping Reedsdale free from thieves and wolves, under which tenure they held the castle and manor of Otterburn.

1315.—Dunstanborough was a manor and estate of Prince Edmund, earl of Lancaster, whose son Thomas, obtained a license this year, to make a castle of his manor-house, in this place. He was the most powerful and opulent subject in Europe in his time, but becoming general of the confederate army, that opposed Edward III., he was beheaded, and afterwards canonized. His estate and fortress were restored to his brother, and continued in the Lancastrian house till after the battle of Hexham, when certain of Queen Margaret's adherents, viz. Sir Richard Tunstall, Thomas Findern, Doctor Morton, and others, with 120 men, continuing within it in arms, it was besieged by Lords Wenlock, Hastings, and two others, with a large force, and after three days' assault, was taken, and battered into ruins, in which state it has ever since remained. It stands upon a high whinstone rock, accessible on the south, but naturally defended by a rocky declivity on the west, and by the sea and abrupt frightful precipices on the east and north.

This year, Andreas Bruntoft occurs as mayor of Hartlepool. The bailiffs of Hartlepool are mentioned so early as 1297.

This year, the whole militia of England were ordered to rendezvous at Newcastle; and, in 1316, another rendezvous was ordered to be at the same place, on another expedition against Scotland.

1316.—Gateshead was governed by a bailiff, a patentee officer, under the bishops of Durham. The names of several persons who filled this office, occur as witnesses to charters in the vestry, from the above year, to 1620, when it was held by Sir Thomas Riddell, *knt.* The borough petitioned the bishop to appoint them a new one in 1772, setting forth, that since the death of Robert Delaval, whose patent was dated in 1681, that officer had been discontinued, and that they had still in their possession a seal inscribed "*Sigillum Burgh de Gateshead.*" The bishop referred the matter to his attorney-general, but as yet no bailiff has been appointed.

This year, Mitford castle, in Northumberland, was in the possession of Sir Gilbert de Middleton, *knt.* a free booter, who with Sir Walter de Selby, and other persons, committed great depredations on the priory of Tynemouth, but having been taken prisoners, and sent to London, they were there tried and condemned, and suffered death on the gallows. This castle was probably built soon after the Conquest.

1316.—This year, the Scots penetrated to the neighbourhood of Durham, and burned the prior's seat at Beaurepaire.

The hospital of St. Mary Magdalen, at Bamborough, was licensed by King Edward II.

1317.—There was a grievous famine and mortality at Newcastle, insomuch that the quick could hardly bury the dead, and a great corruption of cattle and grass. Some eat the flesh of their own children, and thieves in prison devoured those that were brought in, and greedily eat them half alive.

1318. (*Nov. 24*).—The king charged the receiver of his victuals at Newcastle, with the delivery of 40 casks of wine to the inhabitants of Northumberland, as a compensation for their losses by the incursions of the Scots.

This year, Norham castle was besieged by the Scots, Sir Thomas Grey, being then governor, by whose brave defence, and the timely aid of the Lords Percy and Neville, it was preserved from the hands of the enemy. During the siege, the Scots raised two forts against the castle; one at the church of Norham, and the other at Upselington. The same year the Scots took Wark castle by assault.

1319 (*Sep. 1*).—King Edward II. arrived before Berwick with a large body of troops. His force was accompanied by a fleet from the Cinque Ports, laden with provisions and all kinds of stores. The English fortified their camp, and then proceeded to an assault. The walls of the town are described to be so low, that an assailant might strike the people that defended them with a spear. On the 7th, the English attempted an escalade at different parts at the same time, and a ship was directed to approach with an engine to attempt the walls next the haven; but all these were fruitless; the ship was left on the ground by the ebb of the tide. On the 13th, a more general assault was made, when the English employed a great machine called a *Sow*, constructed for holding and defending men, who were moved in it towards the foot of the wall, in order to undermine and sap its foundation. Devices were used to burn this machine, but by throwing a stone of vast weight from an engine, the *Sow* was split, and her occupiers dislodged. On an attack of Mary Gate, the draw-bridge was burnt and the gate in great danger, but forces from the castle coming to its defence, the assailants were obliged to retire. The earl of Murray, and Lord Douglas, had entered England with 10,000 chosen men, and penetrated almost to the city of York, the queen escaping with difficulty. These circumstances determined Edward to raise the siege of Berwick. King Robert Bruce, perceiving the importance of this place, strengthened the walls, and raised them considerably in height, adding also many new towers and additional bulwarks to the whole.

This year, King Edward II., having granted a deputation of the conservatorship of the river Tyne to John Hampsted, recalled that power on the claim of the mayor and burgesses of Newcastle.

1320.—In a deed of this date, a place occurs in the field of

East Chirton, near Tynemouth, under the name of "*Blake Chesters*," indicating plainly, it should seem, that there were on the spot, at that time, some remains of a Roman station. In the same deed, "*the Gallows of Rodestone*" is mentioned, in a situation answering to that of the Monkstone, which there is every reason to believe, is no more than the shaft of an ancient cross, the inscription upon which is clearly of modern date. In a plan of Tynemouth, and Tynemouthshire, as surveyed by Mr. Isaac Thompson, in 1757, the field in which this Monkstone stands, is called "*Cross Close Pasture*."

This year, St. Leonard's hospital occurs as existing, the ruins of which, were to be traced, a few years ago, a little to the west of Tynemouth, on the road to Newcastle.

On Candlemas day, this year, a congress was held at Newcastle, in order to establish the terms of reconciliation between England and Scotland. Besides the conservators of the truce for England and Scotland, there were present as aids and mediators, two envoys from Philip, king of France, and two nuncios from the Pope, but each party insisting on rigorous articles, nothing was effected.

1322 (*July 24*).—King Edward II. led a powerful army to the borders. The northern barons were ordered to join the royal standard at Newcastle on the above day, and the bishop of Durham was summoned to call out all the subjects of the palatinate, able to bear arms, both horse and foot, between the ages of sixteen and sixty. The king with his army marched to relieve Norham castle, and after an assault of ten days, retook it. During this time, his queen resided at Tynemouth monastery. When the king was at Durham, he offered an *ouché* of gold at the shrine of St. Cuthbert.

This year, Stockton was plundered and fired by the Scots, during their destructive inroad along the eastern coast.

1323.—On the execution of Andrew de Harcla, earl of Carlisle, who suffered death for treason, one quarter of his body was ordered to be put upon the keep of the castle of Newcastle. His sentence was, "that his sword should be taken from him, and his gilt spurs hacked off from his heels; that he should be drawn and hanged by the neck, his heart and bowels taken out of his body, burnt to ashes, and winnowed, his body cut into four quarters, one to be set upon the principal tower of Carlisle castle, another upon the tower of Newcastle, a third upon the bridge at York, the fourth at Shrewsbury, and his head upon London bridge," which judgment was executed upon him accordingly.

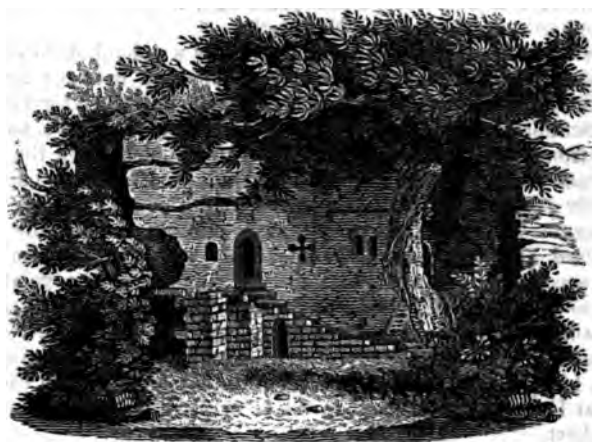
This year, the commissioners of King Edward II. and King David Bruce, were at Newcastle, where a peace was concluded for 13 years. Among the English commissioners, were Adomer, earl of Pembroke, and Hugh de Spencer, lord high chamberlain. Among those from Scotland, the bishop of St. Andrew's, and the earl of Murray.

September 30.—This year, the body of Ada, a bastard son of

King Edward II., was buried in the conventual church, at Tyne-mouth.

1323.—The walls of the city of Durham, having been neglected, and becoming ruinous, were restored, and put into a state of defence, by Bishop Beaumont, who, this year, received a severe censure from Edward II., for his negligence in matters so important to his palatinate.

1326.—The Scots made an assault upon Norham castle. Robert Manners, then governor, had received intelligence of the intended attempt, and permitting sixteen of the assailants to scale the outward wall, put them to the sword.



1327.—Warkworth castle, in Northumberland, at all points, and especially from the south, is a most magnificent pile of ruins. About half a mile up the river Coquet, from Warkworth castle, situated in a deep romantic valley, is a very curious hermitage, excavated in the solid rock, and supposed from the style of its *architecture*, to have been formed about the time of Edward III., who began his reign this year. It was for one priest, or hermit, but its origin and foundation are uncertain. The earl of Northumberland, in his grant to the last hermit, in 1532, calls it "mine armitage, belded in a rock of stone, in my parke, in honour of the Holy Trinity." There are remains of masonry against the rock; but the most curious part consists of a chapel, sacristy, and vestibule, hewn out of a fine freestone rock, 20 feet high, and overshadowed with shrubs and stately forest trees. It is universally agreed, that the founder was one of the Bertram family, which had once considerable property in that county. The hermitage of Warkworth was celebrated in 1771, by the late Dr. Percy, bishop of Dromore, in the ballad of "*The Hermit of Warkworth*." The above cut shews the exterior of the hermitage.

This year, a summons was issued for all the king's military vassals

to attend him at Newcastle, on the Monday before Ascension day. The king did not attend in person, but deputed his uncle, the earl of Norfolk, marshal of England.

1327 (*July 13*).—An army of 20,000 Scottish horse, under the command of Randolph, earl of Murray, and Lord Douglas, entered England, and crossing through Cumberland and Hexhamshire, occupied the wild and mountainous passes of Weardale, in the county of Durham. Their progress was checked by the arrival of King Edward III. in the north, with a powerful force. The young king was at Durham on the above day, and on the 16th he moved forward in pursuit of the enemy. Their track was discovered by the smoke of burning villages, but, amidst the defiles of a mountainous country, the native habits of the Scots, baffled the efforts of the regular troops, and after a pursuit of several days, Edward came within sight of the invaders, encamped in Stanhope Park. The Scots occupied a hill, at whose base, the river Wear, offered a dangerous and uncertain ford. The armies remained thus opposed to each other for three days, during which, mutual defiance was exchanged, and several adventurous knights crossed the river, from both camps, to skirmish or engage in feats of arms. On the third night, the Scots made false fires, and abandoned their camp. Edward followed their movements on the opposite bank, and the armies again encamped in sight of each other, separated by the river, and each dreading to hazard the attack. Meanwhile, several desperate feats of individual valour were achieved, but, they were all eclipsed, by the daring attempt of Douglas. On a moonless night, he crossed the river above the encampments with 200 horse, penetrated to the royal tent, and though repulsed and surrounded, hewed his retreat through the English camp, and led back his band of adventurers with trifling loss, amidst the slaughter and confusion of a midnight surprise. The armies had observed each other without changing their respective positions, during three days. The English vainly hoped to reduce the Scots by famine, whilst the latter, unable to advance without hazarding an unequal contest, began to feel the irksomeness of restraint and inaction, and to meditate the means of a retreat. A Scottish knight was made prisoner, who confessed, with seeming reluctance, that his countrymen were in motion, and that the troops were under orders to follow the standard of Douglas, at the hour of vespers. The exploit of this formidable chieftain was freshly remembered, and the English lay all night upon their arms, expecting the attack, but, the morning discovered the deception; the Scots had quitted their camp at midnight, and pursuit of such an enemy was hopeless. Edward lamented with tears the escape of his enemies, and his soldiers amused themselves by visiting the deserted camp, which contained 500 head of cattle, which the Scots had slaughtered and left behind, as too heavy to carry with them; 1000 wooden spits, loaded with meat for roasting; 300 cauldrons, made of the skins of the slaughtered cattle, filled with water, and suspended on cross-stakes over the fires, for boiling; 10,000 pairs of shoes or brogues, made of raw

hides ; and, lastly, tin girdles, for baking oat bannocks. The flight of the Scots was so rapid, that in three days they traversed Northumberland and Cumberland, and on the third night crossed the Scottish border. The king returned towards Durham by easy stages, and, on the same night, Edward lay at Beaufrepaire, within three miles of Durham, and his troops encamped in the surrounding fields. From hence, accompanied by his nobles, he visited the cathedral, and, after allowing his soldiers two days of rest in the city and environs, he marched to York and disbanded his troops. The English army consisted of 8,000 men at arms, knights and esquires ; 15,000 horse, 15,000 foot, consisting of country levies ; and 24,000 archers ; besides camp followers. A very considerable part of this force were the Hainaulters, or Flemings, who had come into England, under Sir John de Hainault. Edward paid Sir John £4,000. for the loss his troops had suffered in horses during the expedition, and £14,000. more, for a subsidy. John de Hainault's cavalry were well shod at Durham. A circumstance honourable to the inhabitants of Durham, must not be omitted :—When the army marched forward in quest of the Scots, they left their baggage and waggons in a wood at midnight ; the inhabitants of Durham found them there, removed them at their own cost, and placed them in their empty barns. Each wagon was distinguished by a small bannerol attached to it.

1327 (*Nov. 20*).—The commissioners of both nations met at Newcastle, and, concluding a truce, such preliminaries for a settled peace were agreed upon, as were deemed worthy of parliamentary consideration ; and, accordingly, a parliament was summoned to assemble at York.

This year, the Scots laid siege to the castles of Norham and Alnwick, the former whereof they took ; but, they had not the same success at Alnwick ; and, in the siege of that place, several Scottish knights were slain.

1328.—Joan, sister of King Edward III., being contracted to David, the son and heir of King Robert Bruce, was conveyed to Berwick with a splendid retinue, where she was received by the earl of Murray, and Lord Douglas, representatives of the king, he being sick ; and the nuptials were celebrated with great magnificence. She was called *Make Peace*, and carried with her the ragman roll, and all records which had been seized by King Edward I., to be again deposited in the Scotch archives. At this ceremony, a magnificent parade was made by the nobles of each nation, and a sumptuous pageant crowded the place, with all that solemn pomp, which, in the days of chivalry, decked out public spectacles. Sump-tured horses, and men braced in shining arms, forming long trains of steel effigies, stiffened in coats of mail, and strapped like inanimate beings, to the saddle, were the chief objects ; Lord Mortimer's retinue alone, consisted of nine score knights, properly caparisoned, with their esquires, gentlemen, and yeomen.

This year, King Edward III. remitted to the burgesses of Newcastle, all debts and arrears due to him and his progenitors.

1330.—The prior of Tynemouth let a colliery, called Heygrove, at "Elastewyke,"* for £5. a-year, another in the East-field there, at six merks a-year; besides which, they had one in the West-field, and another near Gallow-flat, on the same estate, in the years 1331 and 1334.—*See April 24, 1695.*

1332.—King Edward III. deputed John Darcy and William Denum, to treat with the ambassadors from Scotland, at Newcastle.

1333 (*April 1*).—King Edward III. arrived at Durham on his march northwards. During his stay at Durham, he lodged in the priory; a few days after, Queen Philippa came from Knaresborough to meet him, and, being unacquainted with the custom of this church, went through the abbey gates to the priory, and after supping with the king, retired to rest. This alarmed the monks, one of whom went to the king, and informed him, that St. Cuthbert had a mortal aversion to the presence of a woman. Unwilling to give any offence to the church, Edward immediately ordered the queen to arise, who, in her under garments only, returned by the gate through which she had entered, and went to the castle, after most devoutly praying that St. Cuthbert would not revenge a fault, which she had, through ignorance, committed. Edward, on being refused the homage of David Bruce, and the restitution of Berwick being withheld from him, commanded his herald to proclaim his defiance of the Scottish king, which was equivalent to a declaration of war. On the 12th of April, the English army commenced the siege of Berwick, which had been put into a complete posture of defence. The English monarch, with his army, remained before the walls of Berwick for about a month, when perceiving no likelihood of its surrender, he led his army into Scotland, carrying carnage and devastation in his train, after which he returned to Berwick, and finding that it still held out, he changed the siege into a complete blockade, both by sea and land. The brave garrison getting no relief, and suffering great privations, offered to Edward terms of capitulation, to deliver up the place in five days, provided that it should not be relieved before that time. On the 15th of July, these terms were agreed to, and hostages delivered for the due performance of the contract, one of whom was the eldest son of Sir Alexander Seton, the deputy-governor, whose younger son was a prisoner in the hands of Edward. It is reported that during the cessation, Edward committed the following indelible act of cruelty; he insisted upon the immediate surrender of the town, threatening in case of refusal, to hang the governor's sons in full view of the ramparts. The governor, after the most conflicting torments, replied, that he was determined to preserve his rectitude, though at the inestimable price of his sons. Edward, in unison with his threat, caused a gibbet to be erected, whereon he hanged Seton's two sons. The spot where this sanguinary act is

* Elswick, near Newcastle, at present the property of John Hodgson, Esq.

said to have taken place, is a considerable eminence, on the south side of the river Tweed, and has ever since been termed *Hang-a-dyke-Nook*. The Scots kept possession of Berwick until their defeat at Hallidown Hill, July 18, when it was surrendered the day following, to Edward, who remained some days in it, to refresh himself and his army, and ordered a public thanksgiving to be observed throughout his dominions. For securing the town of Berwick in his allegiance, Edward demanded twelve hostages to be chosen out of the families of the principal inhabitants of the place, eight of whom to be placed at Newcastle, and four at York.

This year, on the day Bishop Bury was enthroned, he entertained, in the hall of the castle, at Durham, the king and queen of England, the queen dowager of England, the king of Scotland, the two metropolitans, and five other bishops, seven earls with their ladies, all the nobility north of the Trent, with a vast concourse of knights, esquires, and other people of distinction, among whom were many abbots, and other religious.

1334.—King Edward III. kept his Whitsuntide at Newcastle, soon after which, Edward Baliol, king of Scotland, did him homage in the church of the Black Friars, in that town, as his superior, and chief lord of the realm of Scotland. This was performed on the 19th of June, in a public and solemn manner, in the presence of a great number of nobles and gentlemen there assembled. He alienated, at the same time, to the English king, the five Scottish counties, next adjoining to the borders of England, to be annexed to that crown for ever.

This year, King Edward III., by a writ, forbade the mayor and bailiffs of Newcastle, to hinder the mooring of ships on the south side of the river Tyne.

1335 (*Feb. 16*).—King Edward III. was at Newcastle; he was there again about Midsummer, this year, with his army, where he was attended also by Baliol, king of Scots.

This year, the Scots ravaged all the country on the banks of the Tees; the terrified inhabitants of Hartlepool flew to their ships, with such effects as they could readily remove, and put to sea for safety. How the town could be so easily surrendered is surprising, except by treachery, the appearance of the fortifications being so solid, that a long siege could have been sustained; however, the enemy were satisfied by a large contribution, which saved the whole neighbourhood from destruction.

This year, the mariners of Newcastle were employed in the king's service, in Scotland.

November.—This year, a truce was agreed to at Alnwick between Edward III. and Sir Andrew Murray, the guardian of Scotland.

1336 (*June 20*).—King Edward III. was at Newcastle, on his way to Perth. He returned to Newcastle before the 28th of October following, and occurs, dating from that town, on the 3d of November.

This year, the king met the Scottish delegates at Newcastle, when he acceded to proposals made by the pope's nuncio, for a further time of truce.

This year, mention occurs of the new chapel of St. Mary, at Tynemouth.

1337.—The king appointed assemblies of his northern barons, to be held at York, and once at Newcastle.

1338.—The Franciscans had a house in Berwick, to which King Edward III., this year, confirmed a grant of twenty merks annually.

1339 (*Aug. 15*).—By a sudden inundation of the river Tyne, at Newcastle, a great part of the town wall, which extended along the Quay, was thrown down, and 167 men and women were drowned.

1340.—King Edward III. was at Berwick, with an army of 40,000 foot and 6000 horse.

1341.—King Edward III. kept the festival of Easter, at Berwick, and held a tournament, in which twelve knights of Scotland entered the lists with twelve of the king's train. This spectacle was exhibited with great magnificence and solemn pomp; but from the animosity which subsisted between the people of the two nations, this exhibition was attended with so much ire and inveteracy, and such bitter rivalry, that two Scottish knights were slain, and Sir John Twiford, an English knight.

This year, it was granted that no goods come by sea to Newcastle, should be sold, until a plank be laid to the ship, on forfeiture of the goods.

November 4.—This year, the king was at Newcastle, a military rendezvous having been ordered there.

1342.—David, king of Scotland, invaded England by the eastern border, with an army of 53,000 horse and foot, and, coming to Newcastle, lay about it all night. Early the next morning, the townsmen sallied forth to reconnoitre the enemy, of whom they slew great numbers by surprise, and brought back with them the earl of Murray, whom they took a prisoner in his tent. The next morning the Scots assaulted the town, but Sir John Nevil, then captain of the castle, making a most vigorous defence, they were compelled to raise the siege, and marched on towards Durham, which they took, after a siege of seven days. David here imbrued his hands in the horrid massacre of all ages and both sexes, spoiled and plundered the sacred places, and put the religious to miserable deaths. On his returning homewards, the rear of his army passing the castle of Wark with great loads of plunder, were seen by the garrison with the greatest indignation. Sir William Montague was then governor, and the countess of Salisbury, whose lord the fortress then belonged to, then resided there. The governor, with 40 horsemen, made a sally, attended with considerable slaughter, bringing into the castle 160 horses laden with booty. King David, incensed at this insult, led his army against the castle, and made a general assault, but met with a repulse, attended with great bloodshed. David then prepared to fill up the ditches, and bring his

battering engines to play upon the walls. The imminent danger of the garrison, rendered it necessary to send information of their situation to the English monarch, who was approaching the borders with a great army. The place being closely invested, rendered such an attempt perilous; but it was effected by the governor himself on a fleet horse; in the darkness and tumult of a stormy night, he passed through the enemy's lines, and carried intelligence to King Edward, who re-doubled his speed to relieve the place. The Scottish chieftains, unwilling to hazard the treasures they had reaped in their expedition, persuaded the king to raise the siege and pass the Tweed, which was done only six hours before the van of the English army appeared. The joy of the countess of Salisbury, for this relief, and her pleasing deportment while she entertained the king at Wark, were the beginning of an amour to which the famous institution of *The Order of the Garter*, is said to owe its origin.

1343.—Bury, bishop of Durham, vindicated his right to royal fish; two whales and two sturgeons having been cast on the coast of Durham, within his manor of Howden.

This year, there was a commission of Bishop Bury, concerning the hinderance of ships in the river Tyne.

1344.—At what time the town of Stockton was incorporated as a borough is unknown, but supposed to be in the time of Bishop Pudsey. In the above year, the mayor and bailiffs of Newcastle, sent a letter to the mayor, bailiffs, and honest men, of Stockton, explaining "certain articles and customes of their towne of Newcastle, which in your towne you claim to use and have, but which to you are not altogether well known, whereof we will you to be better informed, &c."

Robert Bertram, who was high sheriff of Northumberland this year, obtained a licence from King Edward III. to make a castle of his manor house at Bothal. It is now in ruins.

1345.—There was a pestilence, which lasted two years, at Newcastle.

This year, the bishop of Durham obtained a verdict against the king's commissioners, for trespasses done by them, in intermeddling with the conservatorship of the south side of the river Tyne.

1346 (*Sept. 6*).—A letter, in the king's name, of this date, appears to have been sent to the mayor and bailiffs of Newcastle, informing them of the victory of Cressy, and that the siege of Calais was begun, ordering proclamation to be made in the town for merchants and others to forward to that place, immediately, flour, bread, corn, wine, beer, flesh, fish, bows, arrows, and strings, &c., for the use of the king's army. Newcastle furnished 17 ships and 314 men for this siege, a force superior to that provided by any northern port in England, except Yarmouth. Hartlepool furnished 5 ships and 145 men; and Bamborough furnished 1 ship and 9 men, for the same purpose.

October 17.—Was fought the battle of the Red-hills, commonly called the battle of Neville's Cross, near Durham. David, king of

Scotland, assembled one of the most powerful armies which had ever crossed the border, and whilst Edward was prosecuting his victorious career in France, he invaded England by the western marches. The first efforts of the storm fell upon the little tower of Liddell. Walter Selby, the governor, surrendered at discretion, after a brave defence, and David, with strange inhumanity, ordered him to be beheaded on the spot. After burning the abbey of Lanercost, the Scots pursued their usual route through Cumberland and Tynedale. They sacked the priory of Hexham, but spared the town, reserving it as a depôt for their future plunder. The same orders were issued as to Darlington, Durham, and Corbridge. After crossing the Tyne and Derwent, David halted at Ebchester, and the next day encamped, without meeting with serious opposition, at Beaurepaire, three miles west of Durham. The northern nobles, meanwhile, exerted the remaining resources of the country with vigour and dispatch, and, before the middle of October, an army of 16,000 men was assembled, under the Archbishop of York, the bishops of Durham, Lincoln, and Carlisle, the Lords Neville and Percy, and the sheriffs of Yorkshire and Northumberland. David, heedless of the approaching danger, continued at Beaurepaire, indulging in the pageantry of war, and wasting the country round Durham. On the 16th the English forces lay in Auckland park, the next day they moved forward, and, after gaining the rising grounds, halted at Merrington, from whence the motions of the Scots on the western hills might be plainly distinguished. The English leaders hesitated whether to advance or to observe the enemy, and expect his attack in so favourable a position; the marshals and standard bearers moving a little forward, the troops insensibly followed them, and thus they proceeded slowly to Ferryhill. Here a strong foraging party of the Scots, under Douglas, fell unexpectedly into the midst of the English troops, and were pursued with the loss of 500 men, as far as Sunderland bridge. The English halted again on the high grounds above the Wear, but the standard bearers went forward, and the army moved slowly on in order of battle, leaving Durham on the right, to the moor near Neville's cross. Douglas, who had escaped from the slaughter of his pursuers, meanwhile reached the Scottish camp, and gave the first information of the approach of the English force. David had employed the preceding day in drawing out his troops (as if in defiance of opposition) on Durham moor, in order of battle, with standards flying, and had passed the night in Beaurepaire park and wood, without the precaution of a scout or a centinel on the watch. The prudent advice of Douglas to retreat to the hills and avoid an engagement, was rejected with disdain, and the Scots advancing to meet the attack, the armies joined battle on the Red-hills, a piece of broken and irregular ground rising swiftly from the Wear. The Scots were formed in three divisions, under the king, the earl of Murray with Sir William Douglas, and the high steward of Scotland. The English distributed their force in four bodies; Lord Percy led the

first, Lord Neville the second, Sir Thomas Rokeby, sheriff of Yorkshire, commanded the third, and a strong body of cavalry under Edward Baliol, formed the reserve. On a little hillock in the depth of Shawwood, called the Maidens' Bower, the prior with his attendants, knelt around the holy corporax cloth of St. Cuthbert, which in obedience to a miraculous vision, was elevated on the point of a spear within sight of both armies. The city of Durham lay in dreadful suspense, a prize to the conqueror; and whilst the remaining brethren of the convent, poured forth their hymns and prayers from the highest towers of the cathedral,* their eyes wandered with anxious doubt over the field of approaching combat. The Scots were severely galled as they advanced by the English archers; and John Graham, impatient at seeing his men fall without the means of resistance, requested of the king an hundred lances to break the archers; his request was denied, and the troops were ordered to keep the line of battle. Actuated at once by courage and indignation, Graham threw himself singly or with few attendants amongst the archers, dispersed them on every side, and fought till his horse was struck by a broad arrow, and himself wounded and bleeding, was scarcely able to regain the ranks of his countrymen with life. The high steward immediately led his division to the charge with broad swords and battle axes; the archers were driven back through Lord Percy's division, which they disordered in their retreat, and the Scots pursuing their advantage, threw the whole of the body into confusion. Victory hovered on the side of the invaders, but the day was restored by the courage and decision of Edward Baliol. With a powerful body of cavalry, he made an impetuous charge on the high steward's divisions and drove them from the field. King David was meanwhile engaged with equal fortunes against Lord Neville; and Baliol suffering the high steward to retreat unmolested threw himself on the flank of the royal troops which was left uncovered by his flight. The disorder of the Scots became irretrievable, and their third body, under the earl of Murray, were cut to pieces amongst the inclosures which prevented their escape. After all was lost, a gallant band of nobles formed themselves around their king, and fought with the courage of despair, till only eighty of their number survived. David, after receiving two arrow wounds, and resisting several attempts to take him captive, was compelled to surrender to John Copeland, a Northumbrian esquire, two of whose teeth he dashed out with his clenched steel gauntlet. Besides the king, the earls of Fife and Monteith, and Sir William Douglas, were made prisoners; the earls of Murray and Strathmore, John and Alan Steward, and a long list of Scottish nobility, were amongst the slain. Of the English leaders, Lord Hastings

* In commemoration of the event, the organist, singing-men and singing boys of the Cathedral, went annually to the summit of the middle tower, and sung the *Te Deum* to an audience in the church yard below. This was continued until the year 1811, when it ceased, but was resumed on the 29th of May, 1828.

alone fell. Copeland was rewarded by the English king with £500. a-year in land, and made a knight banneret. Out of an army of 30,000 Scots and French auxiliaries, 15,000 were left dead upon the field, whilst the loss of the English was very trifling. In this battle, a holy cross taken out of Holyrood house in Scotland, by King David, was taken from the said king. On that spot of ground whereon was exhibited during the battle the holy corporax cloth of St. Cuthbert, was afterwards erected, to commemorate the victory, an elegant cross of stone work, built at the expence of Ralph, Lord Neville, and which was called

NEVILLE'S CROSS.



“ This cross had seven steps about it, every way squared to the socket, wherein the stalk of the cross stood, which socket was fastened to a large square stone ; the sole, or bottom stone, being of

a great thickness, viz. a yard and a half every way, this stone was the eighth step. The stalk of the cross was in length three yards and a half, up to the boss, having eight sides, all of one piece; from the socket it was fixed into the above boss, into which boss the stalk was deeply soldered with lead. In the midst of the stalk, in every second square, was the Neville's Cross; a saltire on an escutcheon, being Lord Neville's arms, finely cut, and, at every corner of the socket, was a picture of one of the four Evangelists, finely set forth and carved. The boss of the top of the stalk was an octangular stone, finely cut and bordered, and most curiously wrought, and on every square of the nether side, was Neville's cross in one square, and the bull's head in the next, so in the same reciprocal order about the boss. On the top of the boss, was a stalk of stone (being a cross a little higher than the rest), whereon was cut, on both sides of the stalk, the picture of our Saviour Christ, crucified; the picture of the blessed Virgin on one side, and St. John the Evangelist on the other, both standing on the top of the boss: all which pictures were most artificially wrought together, and finely carved out of the entire stone, some parts thereof thorough carved work, both on the east and west sides, with a cover of stone likewise over their heads, being all most finely and curiously wrought together, out of the same hollow stone, which cover had a covering of lead." The cross was broken down and defaced by some lewd and wicked persons, in the year 1589.

1347.—Ralph Lord Neville, one of the leaders at the battle of the Red-hills, died this year, and was the first layman whose remains were interred within the walls of the cathedral of Durham. His tomb is on the south side of the nave. The tomb of his son, Lord John, is placed near. These monuments were formerly ornamented with recumbent figures of the great personages inclosed within them, and surrounded by smaller carved figures in alabaster, finely cut, but are now mutilated and defaced. This outrage is to be attributed to the general disrespect paid to religious edifices, during the civil wars. In those lamentable times the cathedral was converted into a place of confinement for the Scottish prisoners, after the battle of Dunbar, and they destroyed and mutilated whatever came within their reach.

The following curious account of the consumption of provisions in the cathedral of Durham, during Whitsun week, this year, together with the prices of the articles, is taken from the rolls of the cellarer, at present in the treasury at Durham:—600 salt herrings, 3s.; 400 white herrings, 2s. 2d.; thirty salted salmon, 7s. 6d.; twelve fresh salmon, 5s. 6d.; fourteen ling, 5s. "helengs;" four turbot, 23s. 1d.; two horse loads of white fish, and a "congr," 5s. 10d.; "playc," "spartings," and eels, and fresh water fish, 2s. 9d.; nine carcasses of oxen, salted, so bought, 36s.; one carcass and a quarter, fresh, 6s. 11½d.; a quarter of an ox fresh, bought in the town, 3s. 6d.; seven carcasses and a half of swine, in salt, 22s. 2½d.; six carcasses fresh, 12s. 9d.; fourteen calves, 28s. 4d.; three kids, and 26 sucking porkers, 9s. 7½d.; seventy-one geese with their feed

11s. 10d.; fourteen capons, 59 chickens, and 5 dozen pigeons, 10s. 3d.; five stones of hog's lard, 4s. 2d.; four stones of cheese, butter, and milk, 6s. 6d.; a pottle of vinegar, and a pottle of honey, 6½d.; fourteen pounds of figs and raisins, thirteen pounds of almonds, and eight pounds of rice, 3s. 7d.; pepper, saffron, cinnamon, and other spices, 2s. 6d.; one thousand three hundred eggs, 15s. 5d.—Sum total, £11. 4s. 0d. Similar consumptions took place during the week of the feast of St. Cuthbert and other feasts, among the monks of Durham for a long period of years.

1349.—Newcastle was this year nearly destroyed by fire.

1351.—St. Mary's chapel and hospital at Jesmond, near Newcastle, existed at this time; their founder unknown. The corporation of Newcastle obtained a grant of them from Edward VI. Brand says, (1789) "there remains one of the little windows of the hospital in the west gable of a house, at present a public house. The chapel has had a north aisle, which is now a stable, and the hospital itself is now a barn." These ruins have lately been cleared of the buildings by James Losh, Esq., the present proprietor, and have a fine effect. The late celebrated mathematician, Dr. Charles Hutton, in a very early period of his life, kept a school in Stotte's Hall, in this village, formerly the mansion house of Sir Robert Stotte. Sir Francis Anderson, Knt. and others sold possessions here, in 1669, to William Coulson, Esq., whose descendants had residence upon them till 1808, when they were purchased by the late John Anderson, Esq., of Newcastle, by whose family Jesmond House is now inhabited. This delightful village which contains two public gardens, is, by the inhabitants of Newcastle, much resorted to during the summer months. There was an inn in Pilgrim Street, in Newcastle, at which the devotees in their visits to the shrine of St. Mary, at Jesmond, are said to have lodged, hence it was called the Pilgrim's Inn, which is supposed to have given name to the street. The Holy Well at Jesmond, was anciently in high estimation, and hither, for the purpose of devotion, people came from all parts of the island. Bourne says, "the Pilgrim's Inn is on the west side of the street, and exactly one hundred and sixteen yards, one foot, from the southernmost corner of Upper Dean Bridge." Consequently the present Queen's Head Inn will stand nearly upon its site.

This year, license was granted to the burgesses of Newcastle, to dig stones and coals in a place called the Castle Field.

The two great octagon towers at the entrance into the inner ward of Alnwick castle were erected about this time.

1353 (*July 13*).—Commissioners met at Newcastle, for the deliverance of David, king of Scotland, on ransom. Those for England were the bishop of Durham, William de Bohun, earl of Northampton and constable of England, Gilbert de Umfrville, earl of Angus, the lords de Percy and de Neville, William baron of Greystock, and Henry le Scroope; for Scotland, the bishop of St. Andrews and Brechin, Patrick Dunbar, earl of the march of

Scotland, the abbot of Dunfermline, and Walter Moffett, archdeacon of Leonesse.

1353.—This year, King Edward III., in his route to Scotland, kept his Christmas at Newcastle.

1354 (*Nov. 12*).—A treaty was held at Berwick, for the purpose of ransoming David, king of Scotland, who had been taken prisoner at the battle of Neville's Cross, and on the 3d of October, 1357, all the articles of it for delivering him up were concerted there, and it was agreed upon, that the ransom money should be paid at Berwick, Norham, or Bamborough. In failure of performing these articles, a second treaty succeeded, with a truce of fourteen years, which stipulated, that 56,000 merks were to be paid by yearly instalments of 4,000 merks each.

1355 (*November*).—King Edward III. being on an expedition to France, the Scots surprised Berwick, and under cover of the night, penetrated to the foot of the wall, and on the dawn of day, applied their scaling ladders at the port called Cowgate, when a dreadful conflict ensued, and three English and six Scottish knights were slain. The Scots took the town, but the castle held out against all their efforts. King Edward receiving intelligence of the successful efforts of his enemies, instantly quitted France for London, from whence he marched northwards with an immense army, and arrived before Berwick on the 14th of January, 1356. His navy having by this time anchored at the mouth of the Tweed, he besieged the town both by sea and land. The castle still holding out for him, and the Scottish garrison observing such formidable preparations, they offered terms of capitulation, which being agreed to, they were permitted to march out with safety. The king, after this, made considerable additions to the fortifications, and strengthened the fortress with many new works.

1357 (*May 10*).—King Edward III. granted licenses to the men of Newcastle, to work coals in the Castle Field and Castle Moor. He also issued orders concerning coal measures, suffered coals won in the fields of Gateshead to be taken across the river Tyne in boats to Newcastle, on condition of their paying the usual customs of that port, and after that to be sent to any part of the kingdom, either by land or water, but to no place out of it except to Calais. Coals were this year first exported to London from Newcastle.

1358.—Morpeth castle was built by William, Lord Greystock, who died at Brancepath, this year. It appears to have been a place of strength as late as the year 1644, when it was occupied by the Scots army, who were driven from thence by the Marquis of Montrose.

1359.—St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, appears to have been rebuilt. It is 240 feet in length and 75 in breadth. The beautiful steeple of this church, which Mr. Pennant allows to be very justly the boast of the inhabitants, is in height about 194 feet, and, for its peculiar excellency of design and delicacy of execution, is justly



esteemed one of the finest specimens of architectural beauty in the world. It consists of a square tower, 40 feet in width, having great and small turrets, with pinnacles at the angles, and centre of each front of the tower. From the four turrets at the angles, spring two arches, which meet in an intersecting direction, and bear on their centre a perforated lantern, (illuminated anciently for the conduct of travellers,) surmounted by a tall and beautiful spire; the angles of the lantern have pinnacles similar to those on the turrets, and the whole of the pinnacles, being twelve in number, and the spire are ornamented with crockets and vanes. The following is an extract of a letter from that celebrated orientalist, the late Rev. J. D. Carlyle, vicar of Newcastle, to the churchwardens of St. Nicholas:—

“The steeple of St. Nicholas, is a fabric, in my opinion, the most beautiful that exists in the world, which surpasses the cathedral of St. Sophia, at Constantinople, the Mosque of Sultan Saladin, at Jerusalem, the church of St. Peter, at Rome, and even the temple of Minerva, at Athens.” I shall close the account of this very elegant erection with an extract from a “Tour in England and Scotland by a Foreigner, 1825.” “Among all the religious monuments of Newcastle, the belfry of St. Nicholas’ church is one of the most singular creations of Gothic architecture. No description can convey an idea of it; and accordingly Ben Jonson amused himself by describing it as an enigma. It is surmounted by a kind of tiara, formed by the intersection at right angles of four arcs of a circle, supporting a turret, which is transpierced by sculpture, and which is crowned by a pinnacle of a perfectly original character.” The following is the enigma alluded to by this enlightened foreigner:—

“My altitude high, my body four square,
 “My foot in the grave, my head in the air,
 “My eyes in my sides, five tongues in my womb,
 “Thirteen heads upon my body, four images alone;
 “I can direct you where the wind doth stay,
 “And I tune God’s precepts twice a-day.
 “I am seen where I am not, I am heard where I is not,
 “Tell me now what I am, and see that you miss not.”

This steeple is said to owe its erection to Robert Rodes. See the year 1474. I have in my possession a very excellent model in tin, of this steeple, made in 1823. It is formed of nearly 1,700

distinct pieces of tin and wire, and is allowed by all who have seen it, to be a most correct and ingenious piece of art.

1362.—This year, the king gave to the town of Newcastle, a grant for ten years of certain duties upon goods and merchandises for repairing of bridges.

1363 (*September*).—A frost commenced at Newcastle, which continued from the middle of this month to the month of April following.

1366.—John de Tynemouth, an eminent sacred biographer, was born at Tynemouth, where he flourished about this time. He is said to have been vicar of this place, but afterwards a Benedictine monk, in the abbey of St. Albans. He was a most virtuous person, and excellently learned, entirely addicted to the study of the Holy Scriptures, and of sacred history. He gathered the lives and actions of the saints of England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, into two volumes, with great judgment and labour, which work he intitled, "*Sanctiologium Servorum Dei*," or the Sacred History of the servants of God. He also wrote an exposition of the Holy Scriptures, and various other books.

Between the sea and the town of Berwick, in the Maudlin (Magdalen) Field, stood the hospital and free-chapel of St. Mary Magdalen. These are mentioned in the escheats for Northumberland, in the above year.

1370.—Sir John Lilburn was defeated near Carham, in Northumberland, by the Scots, under the command of Sir John Gordon, who was returning from an invasion, with many prisoners, and a great number of cattle; the engagement was fierce, and its decision long doubtful; the Scots being driven from their ground, and returning again five several times. In the end, Lilburn and his brother were made prisoners.

The bishop's throne, in Durham cathedral, was built by Bishop Hatfield, about this year. In the arch beneath the throne, in the south aisle of the choir, he prepared an altar tomb of white marble for the reception of his own remains, bearing his recumbent effigy, in his full episcopal attire. Bishop Hatfield thoroughly repaired the castle of Durham, he added a strong tower to its former lines of defence, and rebuilt the bishop's hall and the constable's hall. This bishop bore a distinguished part in the battle of Neville's Cross.

About this time flourished Nicholas Durham, born in the northern parts, Carmelite friar at Newcastle, and D. D., a learned and constant opposer of John Wickliffe. He wrote on the Master of the Sentences, Originals of Doctors, Resolutions of Questions, and against Wickliffe's Articles.

1377.—A small party of Scots and French took possession of Berwick castle, by storm, in the night, and continued masters of it for eight days, although the garrison was all that time attacked by 7,000 archers and 3,000 cavalry. Upon entering the castle, they killed the governor, Sir Robert Boynton, but liberated his lady for a ransom of 2,000 merks. When the earl of Northumberland summoned these heroes to surrender, they replied, "that they would

not yield it either to the king of England or Scotland, but would retain and defend it for the king of France." When subdued, they were put to the sword.

1377 (*July 16*).—Henry Percy, fourth lord of Alnwick, was present as earl marshal of England, at the coronation of Richard II., and was by that monarch, on the same day, advanced to the dignity and title of earl of Northumberland; the earldom being limited not to his heirs male, but to his heirs general, and, like a barony in fee, transmissible to a female.

1378.—King Richard II. confirmed to the town of Newcastle all the grants and charters of the kings, his predecessors.

1379.—St. Catherine's chantry, in the north porch of Sedgfield church, was founded by John Henlee, rector of Sedgfield, and treasurer of Bishop Hatfield's household. The church, which is built in the form of a cross, is a very handsome structure; a lofty west tower rises sixty feet, embattled, and crowned with four hexagonal turrets, springing from the buttresses, and finished with short spires. It is dedicated to St. Edmund the bishop. In 1500, Bishop Fox granted an indulgence for the reparation of the chapel and altar of the Virgin, in the church of Sedgfield.

Raby castle, in the county of Durham, is indebted for its splendour to John de Neville, earl of Westmorland, who, in the above year, obtained a license to "make a castle of his manor of Raby, and to embattle and crenelate its towers," &c.

1380.—The screen in Durham cathedral, which separates the choir from the chapel of the nine altars, was given by John, Lord Neville, at the expence of £400. (a vast sum in those days), the prior and convent contributing largely, by giving towards its completion £123. 6s. 8d. The work of it having been previously wrought in London, was sent hither by sea. Robert Berrington, the prior, employed seven expert masons, who were almost a year in erecting it; and to whom, besides their wages, he allowed meat and drink till the work was finished in the above year.

1383.—Wark castle was besieged by the Scots, and part of the fortifications were destroyed.

1384.—The Scots got possession of Berwick by the corruption of the deputy governor, Henry, Earl Percy. The duke of Lancaster, at enmity with Henry, and possessing influence with the king, turned this circumstance to the earl's disadvantage, so that he was attainted of high treason, and his estates forfeited. The earl, impressed with the idea that his immediate presence before Berwick, might be of the utmost consequence, besieged the town with a great army, but the secret application of 2,000 merks spared the effusion of blood, and the place was regained. The earl, after this success, obtained the king's pardon, and the restitution of his honours and possessions.

This year, King Richard II. granted a charter to the bishop of Durham, for the mooring of ships, the loading and unloading of coals, &c., in the river Tyne, without molestation from the men of Newcastle.

1385.—The Scots under the earls of Fife, March, and Douglas, made an incursion into Northumberland, laid waste the country as far as Newcastle; and demolished the fortresses of Ford, Wark, and Cornhill. A rendezvous of the English army was ordered at Newcastle on the 14th of July, this year, to proceed against them.

1386.—The ancient fortress of Staward le Peel was granted by Edward, duke of York, to the Friars Eremites of Hexham, to be held by the annual payment of five merks. Of this fortress nothing now remains but crumbling walls and a broken gateway.

1388 (*Aug. 15*).—While the English were unhappily occupied by the civil dissensions between the king and his parliament, the Scots invaded England. On this occasion, the military persons of the country were assembled at Newcastle, which was so full of people, that “they wist not where to lodge.” The enemy having, as usual, marked their way by rapine and destruction as far as Durham, returned, and sat down two days before Newcastle, on both of which they had skirmishes with the defendants within that town. Sir Henry and Sir Ralph Percy, the gallant sons of the earl of Northumberland, were ever foremost in these rencounters, in one of which, Sir Henry Percy, fighting hand to hand with Earl Douglas, lost his standard, which he made a vow to recover, and for that purpose, pursued the Scots on their return, as far as Otterburn, where, on the above day, a sanguinary battle was fought. The armies engaged by moonlight, when battle would have redoubled horrors, especially when the conflict was hand to hand. Douglas, ambitious of laurels, sought for young Henry Percy, who, for his intrepidity and martial prowess, was named *Hetspur*. He met him in the hottest of the battle, insolently braved the young hero to engage, and Douglas fell beneath his valourous sword. The rumour of their leader’s overthrow ran through the Scottish lines: they were intimidated, and began to fly; but, at the instant the panic was become general, and the English were advancing in hopes of victory, the earl of Dumbar came up with a large reinforcement, and the Scots rallied. Now, overpowered by numbers and faint with the fatigues and bloodshed of the fight, the English gave way, and the invaders were victorious: yet so powerfully, and with such gallant resolution, did the English maintain their ground against superior force, that the loss on each side was said to be nearly equal. The English left 1,800 dead upon the field. Among the prisoners were Lord Percy and his brother, Sir Robert Heron, Sir Robert Ogle, Sir John Lilburn, Sir John Colwell, and many other valiant men of Northumberland.

This year, Alexander, archbishop of York, was arrested at North Shields, for high treason, just as he was taking ship to go over sea. Two searchers in the port of Newcastle, John de Kefham and Robert de Rypon, discovered him, and delivered him into the custody of the mayor and bailiffs of that town. Thirty pounds in money were found upon him, which, by order of the king, were granted to the two persons that seized him.

1388.—Newton bridge, a stately fabric, near Bishop Auckland, in

the county of Durham, was built by Bishop Skirlaw, this year. It rises to a great height above the river, and consists of two arches, one of a circular form, 101 feet in span: the other, a pointed arch of 91 feet span.

1389.—Tynemouth monastery was plundered by a party of Scots, under the earl of Murray.

This year, Ralph, Lord Lumley, obtained a license to castellate his manor house of Lumley, and its eastern front still remains a noble monument of the architectural taste of the age, and of the munificence of the founder.

1391 (*Jan. 25*).—King Richard II., by his letters patent, granted to William Bishopdale, then mayor of Newcastle, and his successors in office, to have a sword borne before them in honour of the town.

1393.—This year, a proclamation was made commanding all merchandize to be removed from the Sandhill, in Newcastle, where the town's people were wont to resort for recreation.

1399 (*March 24*).—There was a general array of the men able to bear arms within the county of Durham, on Giles-gate moor, near the city of Durham.

1400 (*May 23*).—King Henry IV., by a charter of this date, granted, that Newcastle with the suburbs and precincts thereof, should be separated from the county of Northumberland, and be a county of itself, with the title of the county of Newcastle, and that the burgesses thereof, instead of bailiffs as formerly, should have a sheriff, to be chosen annually, to have the same power as other sheriffs of counties, and the privilege of holding a county court on one Wednesday in every month; that none of the burgesses should plead or be impleaded without that town, concerning any tenements or tenures within the same, its suburbs, or the precincts thereof, or concerning any offences or other matters arising there, but that the mayor and sheriff should have cognizance of all pleas in the Guildhall of the town. That the said burgesses and their heirs should be exempt from serving on juries without the town; that they should have power to choose six aldermen, who with the mayor, should be justices of the peace, and that the mayor and sheriff should continue to hold the annual courts heretofore held by the mayor and bailiffs. Roger Thornton was mayor, and William Redmarshall the first sheriff of Newcastle, under this charter.

July 25.—This year, King Henry IV. was at Newcastle, and marched from thence, on an expedition against Scotland, about the 7th of August. He dates from thence again on the 3d of September, the same year.

1401.—There was an array of the clergy on Giles-gate moor, near the city of Durham.

1402.—In a plain near Wooler, is a stone pillar, denoting the ground where 10,000 Scots, under Earl Douglas, on Holyrood day, had a great overthrow, by Henry, Lord Percy, and George, earl of March. Douglas had entered England about the middle of August, and plundered the country as far as Newcastle. On his

return to Scotland, he was intercepted at Homeldon, by Earl Percy, and, though advantageously posted on the eminence, found it necessary to engage on this plain; the battle was so bloody that the lands gained the name of *Redriggs*, from the slaughter with which they were stained. Among the prisoners were the earls of Fife, Murray, Angus, Athol, Orkney, and Monteith; the lords Montgomery and Erskine, and about 80 knights. Douglas received five wounds and lost an eye. Being hotly pursued, in the flight 500 Scots were drowned in the Tweed; the most of their army on this fatal day dying or being made prisoners.

1402 (*Nov. 20*).—Nightly watches, by an hundred persons, upon the walls of Newcastle, for the defence of that place and the parts adjacent, appear as established there, and sustained at the charge of the inhabitants.

1405.—A conspiracy was formed against King Henry IV., in which the earl of Northumberland and several others were the principal leaders. The earl held possession of the castle of Berwick. On his hearing, however, that Henry was bringing against him a force of 37,000 men, with engines and artillery properly fitted for a siege, he retired privately into Scotland. The royal army advanced to Berwick, with some engines of destruction, which had never before been brought against it, and which, it is said, were on this occasion, for the first time employed in Britain. The first discharge from one of these cannon, of a large bore,* demolishing one of their principal towers,† the garrison was thrown into such consternation, that it made an instant surrender. The governor, Sir Henry Bolton, underwent immediate decapitation.

1406.—Thomas Langley, who was made bishop of Durham this year, built the whole of the old gaol in the city of Durham, with its massy gateway. He also founded two schools in the Palace Green.

1408 (*Feb. 18*).—Henry, earl of Northumberland, was slain at the battle of Bramham moor. One quarter of his body was put up at Newcastle, but, in the May following, with the other parts and his head, it was taken down and delivered to his friends, to be solemnly buried.

1410.—There was a great plague at Newcastle.

Witton castle, in the county of Durham, was founded about this period.

1411.—St. Oswald's church, in the city of Durham, is a very ancient structure. The roof is of wood, curiously vaulted and joined with rose knots; the rafters sustained on brackets, ornamented with cherubs bearing shields. This is supposed to have been constructed by William de Catton, who was vicar in the above year, but the body of the edifice must have been built long antecedent to that period, as one Dolsinus occurs as priest here so early as 1156.

* The first construction of cannon was by iron bars bound together with hoops.

† *See March, 1811.*

1412 (*June 10*).—The *Maison de Dieu*, or house of God, was built by Roger Thornton, on the south side of the Sandhill, Newcastle, wherein certain persons should be provided with meat and clothing. The royal license is dated as above, when the building appears to have been completed. The son of its founder granted the use of the hall and kitchen belonging to this hospital, “for a young couple when they were married, to make their wedding dinner in, and receive the offerings and gifts of their friends, for at that time houses were not large.” This appears an ancient custom for the encouragement of matrimony. This edifice, over which was the Merchants’ Court, is now taken down, and a new building for the company of Free Merchants, &c. built on its site.—*See Jan. 20, 1823.*

1414 (*July 22*).—The Scots were defeated near Yeving, by Sir Robert Umfreville, then commander of Roxburgh castle, and the earl of Westmorland, then Lord Warden of the marches. Sir Robert had, it is said, but seven score spears, and three hundred bows, with which force he discomfited 4,000 Scots, killed sixty, took one hundred and sixty prisoners, and chased them twelve miles into their own country. The place of this action which is on the south side of the village of Yeving, is denoted by a rude column of whinstone fourteen feet high.

1415 (*Aug. 2*).—Sir Thomas Grey, of Heton, in Northumberland, was tried at Southampton, and having confessed his guilt of conspiring with the earl of Cambridge and Lord Scroope, to take away the life of King Henry V., then preparing to invade France, was immediately beheaded, and his head was afterwards placed on one of the gates of Newcastle.

This year, Langley, bishop of Durham, recovered by suit in the king’s court, the third part of Tyne bridge, adjoining to Gateshead, from the mayor and burgesses of Newcastle, together with a tower, which that body had lately caused to be erected thereon.

1416 (*Sept. 17*).—The assizes at Durham were deferred, on account of a dreadful plague, from this day to the Monday after the Circumcision. The plague continued to rage at intervals for five years.

1417.—Two women named Matilda Burgh and Margaret Usher, servants to Peter Baxter, of Newcastle, being determined to approach the shrine of St. Cuthbert, at Durham, nearer than was legally permitted, disguised themselves in men’s apparel, but were unfortunately discovered in the attempt to complete their purpose, and taken into custody. By way of punishment for their intended prophanation, they were adjudged to walk, on three festival days, before the procession in St. Nicholas’ church, in Newcastle, and on three other holidays, at the church of All Saints, in the same town, habited in the dresses in which they committed the offence; proclamation being first made as to the cause of this penance. The master and mistress of these curious females were at the same time ordered to attend the spiritual court at Durham, to answer the charge of being counsellors and abettors in this misdemeanor.

1419.—In the absence of the king of England, who was then in France, hostilities being commenced on the borders, William Haliburton, of Fast castle, took the castle of Wark, which was then in the custody of Robert Ogle, and put all the garrison to the sword; but it was soon recovered by the English, who, from a perfect knowledge of the place, made their way by a sewer which led from the kitchen into the Tweed, and surprising the garrison, put them all to death, in revenge for their cruelty on Ogle's troops.

1424.—James, king of Scotland, who had been long a prisoner in England, obtained his liberty, and married Jane Beaufort, of the royal blood of Lancaster. The city of Durham was the place appointed for the exchange of hostages, and the meeting of the English and Scottish commissioners. Cardinal Langley, bishop of Durham, the bishop of London, the earls of Northumberland and Westmorland, Lords Dacre and Greystock, Richard Neville, warden of the west marches, and Sir Robert Umfrville, appeared on the part of England, a truce was concluded for seven years, and James and his queen, after experiencing for a month the hospitality of the bishop of Durham, were honourably escorted by the gentry of Northumberland and Durham, to the abbey of Melrose, where James confirmed the treaty of Durham.

Streatham castle, in the county of Durham, was rebuilt by Sir William Bowes, who was knighted for his valour at the battle of Verwoyle, in France, this year.

1428.—King Henry VI. issued an order for the safe conduct of the king of Scots as far as Newcastle or Durham, by one thousand of his own horse, to a personal conference with Henry Beaufort, bishop of Winchester, in order to prevent hostilities.

1429 (*Jan. 3*).—Died, Roger Thornton, the celebrated patron of Newcastle. He is represented as coming from the country west of Newcastle, and as poor and badly clothed at his outset in life. His rise to opulence was ridiculed by the envious wits of those days in the following lines:—

“ At the West-gate came Thornton in,
“ With a hap and a halfpenny and a lambskin.”

He accumulated a large estate, built the castle at Netherwitton, and the West-gate, and founded the *Maison de Dieu*, in Newcastle, was nine times mayor of that town, and one of its representatives in Parliament for several years. The curious large brass plate formerly on the tombstone of Roger Thornton, is now placed in the vestibule of All Saints' church, in Newcastle. It represents Roger Thornton and his lady; also a number of saints and other figures, being altogether a very curious piece of workmanship.

At this time, a recluse appears to have lived in a hermitage on Tyne bridge, Newcastle.

About one o'clock on the morning of *Corpus Christi day*, during a dreadful storm of thunder and lightning, and whilst the religious were at matins, the belfry of Durham cathedral was struck with the electric fluid. After the fire had continued burning

dreadfully for several hours, about twenty feet of the upper part of the belfry fell down upon the church, dragging with it its heavy iron work and burning timber.

1436.—Finchale priory, in the county of Durham, underwent divers repairs. The side aisles of the nave were totally removed, and the connecting arches being filled up with masonry, from this time forward constituted its external wall till the dissolution. It is a sequestered ruin on the banks of the Wear.

1437.—Between this year and 1388, the cloisters of Durham cathedral were erected by Bishop Skirlaw and Cardinal Langley. The armorial bearings affixed to the crossings of the wood-work of the ceiling, were numerous in 1666, as appears from two sketches of them taken by Sir William Dugdale, and engraved upon two plates in Surtees' History of Durham. The most frequent bearing is, of course, Skirlaw, but the names of most of the northern families might once have been found here. May 13, 1828, those that were still extant, were taken down in order that their respective emblazonments might be restored.

Robert Neville, who was made bishop of Durham this year, built the Exchequer on the Palace green, in the city of Durham, where the Neville's arms and crest still remain over the door way.

1447.—Upon an inquisition taken this year, it was found that the river Tyne, and the soil thereof, from the place called Sparrow Hawk in the sea, to Hedwin streams above Newburn, belonged, under the crown, to the corporation of Newcastle.

1448 (*Sept. 26*).—King Henry VI. came on a pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Cuthbert, at Durham. The king three days after his arrival, on the feast of St. Michael the archangel, which happened on a Sunday, attended in person, the first vespers, the procession, the mass, and the second vespers, in the cathedral, and on the last day of September, he quitted the castle, in which he had been entertained during his visit, and returned to the south.

This year, Alnwick was nearly reduced to ashes by the Scots.

1449.—The English and Scottish commissioners twice met at Durham, to renew the truce, (which had been broken by the hostile spirit of the border nobles,) when several minute and useful regulations were framed to repress private hostility, and to protect the persons and property of individuals. The name of Bishop Neville stands first in the English commission, and he again acted as a commissioner at Newcastle in 1451.

1450.—At this time, Edward Dynley, born of a good family at Newcastle, and a learned writer of the order of Carmelites, flourished in their house at that place.

1451 (*Aug. 13*).—A treaty was sealed in the vestry of St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, at a meeting of the plenipotentiaries of the kings of England and Scotland. Sir Henry Percy, knt., son of the earl of Northumberland, was one of the conservators of the truce which was to continue till May the 21st, 1457.

1454. King Henry VI. confirmed to the mayor and burgesses

of Newcastle, the conservatorship of the river Tyne, from Sparrow Hawk to Hedwin streams.

1458.—King Henry VI. constituted John Viscount Beaumont, one of the commissioners to meet with those of Scotland, at Newcastle, touching satisfaction for such injuries as had been committed by the subjects of either realm against the other, contrary to the articles formerly concluded between them.

This year, Henry, earl of Northumberland, the prior of Tynemouth, Ralph Percy, *knt.*, Ralph Gray, *knt.*, Robert Ogle, *knt.*, William Bertram, Roger Thornton, John Hauboth, *sen.*, Robert Mitford, John Cartington, and Robert Rodes, were appointed commissioners to raise archers in the county of Northumberland.

1460.—The Scots gathered great booty on the marches, and among other castles which they assailed, Wark was taken and demolished. This castle was afterwards repaired by the earl of Surrey.

1461 (*March 29*).—After the battle of Towton, which was fought on this day, and which proved so fatal to the house of Lancaster, King Henry VI., with his queen and the prince, the duke of Somerset; Henry, duke of Exeter; Lord Ross; Sir John Fortesque, chief-justice of England; and Sir William Tailbois; who were then at York, fled on hearing the news, first to Newcastle, and afterwards to Berwick. King Edward IV., after this great victory, marched northward as far as Newcastle, but soon afterwards returned to the south. James Butler, earl of Wiltshire and Ormond, a firm Lancastrian, who was taken at this battle by Richard Salkeld, *esq.*, was beheaded at Newcastle on the first of May, this year.

1462.—The queen of King Henry VI., with an army, landed at Tynemouth, with an intention of going to Newcastle; but probably being denied admission there, she re-embarked, and reached Berwick herself in a small vessel; but her followers having been driven ashore at Bamborough by a storm, burnt their ships and fled to Holy Island, where near 400 of them were afterwards taken prisoners by the partisans of King Edward IV.

The Derwent lead mines were wrought so early as this time, and are said to have been very productive of ore.

1463 (*Nov. 30*).—This year, King Edward IV. set out from London on his way to Northumberland, where Bamborough castle surrendered to him on Christmas eve, as did that of Dunstanborough three days after, and that of Alnwick was taken on the 6th of January following. These three castles had been taken by Queen Margaret, and were then in the possession of the friends and adherents of Henry VI.

This year, Sir Ralph Percy with the Lords Hungerford and Ross, encountered King Edward's forces, under the command of Sir John Neville, Lord Montacute, warden of the eastern marches. Sir Ralph Percy's companions in arms fled on the first onset; but he, with the spirit of a Percy, maintained his ground, and died

fighting bravely for Henry VI., whose cause he had espoused; his dying words were "*I have saved the bird in my breast,*" meaning his faith to his party. The following is a representation of the stone pillar called

PERCY'S CROSS.



This cross, sculptured with the arms of Percy and Lucy, was erected in memory of Sir Ralph. It stands in a field near the road which runs from Morpeth to Wooler, being the place where the battle was fought.

1464 (*May 15*).—Queen Margaret entered Northumberland again, at the head of a very numerous army, which on the above

day, suffered a total defeat on a plain called the Levels, near Hexham. John Neville, marquis of Montacute, afterwards created earl of Northumberland, general of the forces of the house of York, forced the intrenchments of the Lancastrian party, and made a dreadful slaughter. The Ogles and Manners of this county were of the victorious. The Percys, Ross, Nevilles, Tailbois, and Greys, among the vanquished. The unfortunate King Henry rode full speed out of the field. His attendants were many of them taken in the pursuit. The furniture of their horses were of blue velvet; upon one of them was found the high cap of state called abacot, adorned with two rich crowns which was presented to the victorious Edward at York. His competitors Henry and his queen, and some of their partisans, were abandoned to extreme misery. Single and alone, the queen wandered with her little son in her arms, exposed to dangers till (by the aid of a generous robber) she reached the sea coast and passed over to France, her native land. The duke of Exeter, their friend, became an exile in Burgundy; where, without shoes or stockings, he begged his bread from door to door. The duke of Somerset, the Lords Hungerford and Ross, were executed at Hexham, immediately after the battle. Sir William Tailbois, Sir Humphrey Neville, and Sir Ralph Grey, were all beheaded; Sir Ralph being first degraded of his high honour, by cutting off his gilt spurs, defacing his coat armorial, and breaking his sword over his head. The earl of Kent was taken in a close called Riddesdale, and was brought to Newcastle and there beheaded. This was the last struggle made by the house of Lancaster.

1465.—After a tedious negotiation between the king of England and the king of Scotland, a treaty of pacification was concluded at Newcastle, whereby the truce for fifteen years agreed on the preceding year, was prolonged for forty-five years.

1472 (*Feb. 6*).—Henry Percy (fourth earl of Northumberland), was commissioned on the above day to meet on April 25, following, at Newcastle, to treat with commissioners sent by the king of Scotland, about a peace, cessation of arms, or confederacy. He was also commissioned to meet persons deputed by James III., king of Scotland, on June 16, 1473, at Newcastle or Alnwick, or such other place as he should think proper, to settle with them all matters transacted contrary to the truce.

1473.—Bishop Booth granted a license to the mayor and burgesses of Hartlepool, to build a pier which is now first mentioned, and also to levy money for that purpose. The walls of Hartlepool are said to have been built by Robert de Brus, between the years 1245 and 1295, and as they bear a striking resemblance to the walls of Newcastle, which by some authors have been attributed to the reign of Edward I., this seems extremely probable.

1474.—The manor of Croxdale, in the county of Durham, came into the hands of the Salvins, prior to this year, and has ever since continued in their possession, a circumstance hardly to be paralleled in the history of any family in the county.

This year, Robert Rodes, an eminent lawyer, and great benefactor

of the churches, &c. in Newcastle, died without issue. July 16, 1440, he was appointed to the office of "Countrouler des eustumes & subsidies le roy le port de Novell Castel sur Tyne." January 10, 1447, he presented a cross of gold to the shrine of St. Cuthbert, at Durham. He was steward to the prior and convent of Durham, and enjoyed the fraternity of that church. It is generally thought that the upper part of St. Nicholas' steeple is a superstructure, and that it was raised upon the original tower, by Robert Rodes. On the arch of the belfry of this steeple, there are four shields, with the arms of Rodes, and an inscription as follows:—

“*Erate pro Anima Roberti Rodes.*”



The font of this church seems to have been made or repaired at the expense of Robert Rodes, as his coat of arms and another (probably his wife's) are sculptured on it. The canopy of this font is of most elegant workmanship. There are also five shields on the roof of this church, with the arms of Rodes.

1478.—Great numbers died this year of a plague at Newcastle.

1480.—The English during the winter laid siege to Berwick, both by sea and land. The works being new they flattered themselves they should with little difficulty be able to beat down the walls; but though several wide breaches were effected, the garrisons

son made so obstinate a defence, that after spending most part of the winter in carrying on the siege, the English were forced to raise it, and retreat from before the town.

1482 (*July*).—King Edward IV. marshalled his army at Alnwick, amounting to 22,000 men, which formidable force making its appearance unexpectedly before Berwick on the south banks of the Tweed, the garrison made no resistance, and the town was immediately seized. Lord Hales who had the command of the castle, refusing to surrender it, 4000 men were left to besiege it, and the main body advanced towards Edinburgh. His lordship not receiving succours, lost hopes and surrendered. After this a truce was concluded, in which Berwick was delivered up to England; and the Scots engaged never in future to attempt the reduction of it. Since which period it has without interruption remained in the possession of the crown of England.

1483 (*Sep. 20*).—Ralph Lord Neville, and Isabell his wife, by license granted by Bishop Dudley, founded a chantry in Brancepath church; a second chantry was also founded in this church, but by whom is unknown. In the midst of the chancel is the monument and burial places of Margaret, daughter of Hugh, first earl of Strafford, and first wife to Ralph, the first earl of Westmorland. This curious monument which is a little raised from the floor, displays the effigies both of the earl and his lady in wood; the former is represented in a helmet and coat of mail, the hands elevated with gauntlets, a collar studded with gems round the neck, and on the breast a shield with the arms of Neville. The latter has a high crowned bonnet, and a mantle drawn close over her feet which rest on two dogs couchant. There are other ancient tombs here of the Nevilles and the Bulmers. This church is of great antiquity.

1484 (*Dec. 6*).—A convention for a marriage between James, then duke of Rothsay, heir-apparent of the king of Scotland, and Ann, daughter of the duke of Suffolk and niece of the English king, as soon, within three years, as the parties came of fit age, was agreed upon to be ratified on the above day, in the church of St. Nicholas, Newcastle; but it was a felicity not destined for this Ann, but reserved for Margaret, daughter of King Henry VII.

1487.—King Henry VII. arrived at Newcastle, in a progress through the northern counties, and carrying a severe inquisition against the persons who had been concerned in the late rebellion; he continued to reside in that town for some time.

1490.—King Henry VII. made a grant of the fair called St. Luke's fair, to the town of Newcastle.

1492.—The society of masters and mariners in Newcastle, purchased the site of the present Trinity-house, to be held by the payment of a red rose annually, at midsummer, for ever. Before that time it was called Dalton's Place. In 1505, they ordered that a hall, chapel, and lodgings, for their poor brethern, should be erected at their common charge.

1495 (*Dec. 16*).—John Bonar of Gateshead, labourer, went to

the church of Durham, and having struck the bell there, supplicated with great earnestness the immunity and liberty of St. Cuthbert, for that fourteen years before he had assaulted one Alexander Stevenson, near Doteland Park, in Hexhamshire, and feloniously struck him on the breast with a dagger, or whinyard, of which stroke he instantly died.

On the door within the porch, which forms the principal entrance to the cathedral at Durham, is a curious metallic ring or knocker, sculptured with a terrific visage in bold relief and well executed, with which persons claiming sanctuary, were accustomed to alarm the inmates of the cathedral in the night time, for the abbey church, the church yard, and all the circuit thereof, was, in ancient times, a sanctuary for all manner of men that committed any great offence, or any prisoners who had broken out of prison, and fled to the church door, knocking to have it opened; also certain men lay in two chambers over the north door for that purpose, that, whenever such offenders came and knocked, they instantly let them in, at any hour of the night; and ran quickly to the Galilee bell, and tolled it, that whosoever heard it might know that some had taken sanctuary. When the prior had notice thereof, he sent orders for them to keep within the sanctuary; that is, within the church and church-yard, and that every one should have a gown of black cloth, with a yellow cross, called St. Cuthbert's cross, at the left shoulder; that every one might see the privilege granted at St. Cuthbert's shrine, for offenders to fly unto for succour and safeguard of their lives, till they could obtain their prince's pardon; and that they should lie within the church, on a grate made only for that purpose adjoining to the gallery south door. They had likewise meat, drink, and bedding, and other necessaries, at the expence of the house for 37 days, being only such as were necessary for such offenders, until the prior and convent could get them conveyed out of the diocese.

1495.—This year, Robert Burdon, occurs as the first mayor of Stockton.

1498.—The Scots led by King James in person, besieged Northam castle, which had been put into good repair by Fox, then bishop of Durham, and was well garrisoned. The bishop came in person to its succour, the besieged making a valiant defence, many of the outworks were destroyed.

1503.—Margaret, eldest daughter of King Henry VII., then affianced to James IV., king of Scotland, was conveyed in great splendour through the counties of Durham and Northumberland. During her stay at Durham, she was entertained by Bishop Fox, in the great hall of his palace, July 23, being the anniversary of his installation.

The following account of her progress through the northern counties, in Leland's Collectanea, is styled, "The Fyances of Margaret, eldest daughter of King Henry VII., to James, king of Scotland: Together with her departure from England, journey into Scotland, her reception and marriage there, and the great feasts

held on that account. Written by John Younge, Somerset Herald, who attended the princess on her journey."—As the ceremonies, attending her journey through Durham and Northumberland, give a striking representation of the magnificence of those times, they are worthy attention.

"The sixth day of the said monneth, (July), the quene departed from Allerton, in fayr aray and noble companyd, and Syr James Straungwysch, knight, scheryffe for the said lordschyp, for the said bischop, mett hyr welle accompanyd.

"After sche drew to Darneton to hyr bed, and threë mylle from the said place cam to hyr the Lord Lomley and hys son, accompanyd of many gentylnen and others welle apoynted, ther folks arayed with their liveray and well monted, to the nombre of xxiiij. horsys.

"At the village of Nesham she was mett by Syr Rawf Bowes and Syr William Aylton, welle apoynted, with a fayr company arayed in their liverays, to the nombre of xl. horsys, well apoynted and well horst.

"In the saide place of Nesham was the saide quene receyved with the abbasse and religyouses, with the crosse without the gatt, and the bischop of Durham gaffe hyr the sayd crosse for to kisse. At two mylle ny to the said towne of Darneton, mett the quene, Syr William Boummer, scheryffe of the lordschip of Durham. In company with hym was Syr William Ewers, and many other folks of honor of that contre, in fayr order, well apoynted of liverays and horst; to the nombre of six score horsys.

"By the said company was sche conveyed to Darnton. And at the gatt of the church of the said place, war revested the vicayr and folks of the church, wer doing as sche had done on the dayes before, sche was led to the manayer of the said byschop of Durham for that nyght.

"The xxth day of the said monneth the quene departed from Darnton in fayr aray, and with the precedents company went to the town of Durham. A mille out of the said towne, cam before hyr Syr Richard Stanley and my lady his wyffe, accompanyd of gentylnen and gentylwomen varey well apointed, hys folks arayed in his liveray, to the nombre of l. horsys well mounted.

"Then the quene prepared herselfe to enter into the said towne, and every ychon in the lyk wys, in fayr aray, and rychely, after the maunere accostomed. In specyall the erle of Northumberland ware on a goodly gowne of tynsill fourred with hermynea. He was mounted upon a fayr courser, his harnays of goldamyth warke, and thorough that sam was sawen small bells that maid a melodyous noyse, without sparing gambads. Hys gentylnen of honor and hys company were well apoynted.

"At the interyng of the said towne, and within, in the streytts and in the windowes was so innumerable people that it was a fayr thing for to se. And in fayr ordre sche was conveyed to the church, the officers of armes, sergeants of armes, trompetts, and mynstrells, going before hyr.

“ At the gatt of the church was my lord the bischop of the sayd place, and my lord the prior, revested in pontificals, with the convent all revested of ryches copps, in processyon, with the crossys. And ther was apoynted a place for to kisse them.

“ Then the sayd processyon departed in ordre, and all the noblesse in lyk wys, to the church, in whiche ny to the fount was a ryche awter, adorned of ryches jwells and precyowuses relikes, the wiche the said bischop delivered to the said quene to kisse. And by the erle of Surrey was given hyr offrynge. After this sche was noble conveyd to the castell, wher hyr lodging was prepared and drest honestly. And every ychn retourned agayn to his repayre.

“ The xxist, xxijd, and xxiiij, days of the said monneth sche sejournd in the said place of Durham, wher sche was well cheyrscht, and hyr costs borne by the said bischop; who on the xxiiij day held holle hall, and dowble dynner, and dowble soupper to all commers worthy for to be ther. And in the said hall was sett all the noblesse, as well spiritwalls as temporalls, grett and small, the wiche was welcome; for this was hys day of installacyon.

“ The xxiiijth day of the said monneth the quene departed from Durham accompanied of hyr noble company, as sche had beene in the dayes past, in fayr manere and good ordre, for to com to the towne of the Newe Castell. Thre mylle fore thens cam to her the prior of Tynemouth, well apoynted, and in hys company xxx horsys. Hys folks in hys liveray. And ther was in lyk wys Syr Rawff Harbotelle knyght, richly apoynted, well mounted, and hys folks in hys liveray to the nombre of xl horsys.

“ At the intrynge of the said towne of Newe Castell, the quene apoynted hyr, and intred in noble estat. Ich lords and others tuke newe horsys rychly apoynted, in special th' erle of Northumberland, as in the manere of the entrynge of York, and hys folks in lyk wys.

“ Upon the bryge cam in processyon rychly revested the college of the said towne, and with them the freres, carmelets, and jacobins with the crossys, the wiche war gyffen to the sayd quene to kysse, as before, by the archbyschop.

“ After them was the mayr of the said towne, acompayned of the scheryffes and aldermen, well apoynted, on foot. The wiche receyved the said quene honorably: and after the receyvng the said mayr monted on horseback, beryng his masse before hyr.

“ At the bryge end, upon the gatt, war many children, revested of surpeliz, syngyng mellodiously hypnes, and playing on instruments of many sortes.

“ Within the said towne, by ordre, the bourges and habitants war honestly apoynted. The streytts were hanged, and the wyndow loupes, topps, and schipps was so full of people, gentylnen and gentylwomen, in so great nombre, that it was a playsur for to se. But they maid non sound of artyllery and ordonnance.

“ In such statt and fayr aray, was the said quene brought and conveyed to the freres austins, wher she was lodged and honestly receyved by thos revested with the crosse, in the manere as it is

rehersed befor. And when she was brought to hyr lodgyng every men drew hym to hys awn.

“The next day after, being the xxvth day of the said monneth, Saunt Jamys day, sche abode all the day in the said towne, and was at the church masse very nobly accompayned.

“That same day, at even, th’ erle of Northumberlaund, made to many lords, knights, and others, a goodeley baunket, which lasted to mydnyght, for cause of the games, daunces, sports, and songs, with force of ypocres, succres, and other metts of many delicuyous maners.

“To the said Newe Castell cam the lord Dacre of the North, accompayned of many gentylnen, honestly apoynted, and hys folks arayed in his liveray.

“The xxvith day of the said monneth the said quene departed from the said place, after the custome precedent, varey richly and in fayr aray. And the sayd mayr conveyd hyr out of the said towne, and after tuk lyve of her.

“Haff a mylle owt of the said towne was Syr Humfrey Lysle and the prior of Bryngburn, well apoynted and well horst, to the nombre of xx horsys. Their folks arayed of their liveray. And a mylle from the said towne was in ordre the scheryffe of Northumberlaund, Syr Rawff Evers, in company of many other gentylnen, varey well apoynted, their folks clothed in their liveray, well monted. And with them wer many honests folks of the countre, with spers and bowes, in jackets, to the nombre of two hondreth horsys.

“With the sam fayr company, was the said quene conveyd to Morpath, and by the towne passed in fayr ordre, wher ther was much people; and so sche went to the abbay, where sche was well receyved by the abbot and religyous revested, at the gatt of the church, with the crosse. And after the receyving sche was conveyd to her lodgyngs in the said place for that sam nyght.

“The xxvijth day of the said monneth, the quene departed from Morpath, after the custom before, to goo to Alnewyk, a place of th’ erle of Northumberland. And in haff of the way cam before hyr, maister Henry Gray, esquier, well apointed. In hys company many other gentylnen, and hys folks well monted and arayed in his liveray, to the nombre of a hundreth horsys.

“Two mylle from the sayd place, the said erle cam and mett hyr, well accompayned, and brought hyr thorough his park, where sche kylded a buk with her bow. After which sche was conveyde to the said castell, where sche and hyr company was welcomed by the said lorde, the wich maid hyr varey good chere.

“The next day, the xxviijth day of the said monneth, sche was all the holl day in the said castell, and by the lord well cheryst and hyr company.

“The xxixth day of the sayd monneth the said quene departed from Alnewyk, for to go for Barrwyk, and at haff of the way named Belleford, she bayted. For Syr Thomas D’Arcy, capittayne of the said Barrwyk had maid rady hyr dynner at the said place very well and honestly.

“ For that the said maister Henry Grays abouffe named is scheryffe of Ellaund shyre and Northumberlaund shyre, he bore his rod before the said quene, sens the entrynge of the said lordschyps to Barrwyk.

“ Betwyx Alnewyk and Barrwyk cam to the quene maister Rawf Wodryngton, having in hys company many gentylnen well apoynted. His folks arayd in liveray, well horsed, to the nombre of an hundreth horsys.

“ At the comyng ny to Barrwyk was shot ordonnance the wiche was fayr for to here. And ny to the sayd place, the quene drest hyr. And ichon in fayr aray, went the on after the other in fayr order.

“ At the entrynge of the bryge was the said capittayne well apoynted, and in hys company hys gentylnen and men of armes who receyved the said quene into the said place.

“ At the tother end of the bryge toward the gatt, was the maister marshall compayned of hys company, ichon bearing a staffe in his haund.

“ After him was the college revested with the crosse, the wiche was gyffen hyr for to kysse by th' archbisshop as before.

“ At the gatt of the said towne was the maister porter, with the gard and soyars of the said place, in a row well apoynted. Ichon of those had an hallebarde or other staffe in his haund, as the others. And upon the said gatt war the mynstraylls of the sayd capittayne, playnge of their instruments.

“ In the midds of the said towne was the maister chamberlayn, and the mayre, acompayned of the bourges and habitaunts of the said place, in fayr ordre and well apoynted.

“ In such fayr ordre and company sche was conveyd and brought to the castell, wher she was receyved by the lady D'Arcy honestly accompayned.

“ The xxx and xxxist days of the said monneth, the quene tarried at Barrwyk, where she had great chere of the said cappitayne of Barrwyk, and hyr company in likewys. That sam day was by the said cappitayne, to the pleasur of the said quene, gyffen corses of chasse within the said towne, with other sports of bayrs and of doggs togeder.

“ The first day of August the quene departed from Barwick for to go to Lamberton kerke in varey fayr company, and well apoynted.

“ First, of the said archbischops and bischops, the erles of Surrey and of Northumberlaund, the lord Dacres, the lord Scroop and his son, the lord Gray, the lord Latemer, the lord chamberlain, maister Polle, and other nobles and knyghts. The young gentylnen were well apoynted at their devises, and ther was fou much of cloth of gold, as of other ryche rayments. Their horsys fryaks in harnays of the selfe: and upon thos orfavery, sum others had campaynes gylt, the others campaynes of silver. Gambads at plasur, that it was fayr thyng for to se.

“ The sayd erle of Northumberlaund was varey well mounted, hys horse rychly apoynted, his harnays of gold in brodeux, hym-

selfe in a jackette betten of gold, well wrought in goldsmith werke, and brodery, and in a cloke of purple borded of cloth of gold. His hensmen apoynted as before mentioned. Incontinently before hym rode the maister of his horse, conveying the sam thre hensmen arayed in jackets all of orfavery and brodery, and ther harnays of their horsys in such wys of orfavery and brodery full of small bells that maid a grett noyse. After thos cam a gentylmen ledyng in his haund a corser, covered to the grownde of a vary rych trapure betten of gold of orfavery and brodery in orange. And ichon of the sam a gren tre in the manere of a pyne, and maid the said lord pannades, and they weigited varye honestly.

“After cam the said quene varye rychly arayde and enorned with gold and precyous stones, setting in hyr lytere rychly apoynted. Her foteman alwayes ny to hyr well apoynted, and monted upon fayr pallefrys, and their harnays ryche in appareyll.

“After cam hyr char rychly apoynted,ournysched of ladyes and gentywomen well apoynted, and after that, sum other gentywomen on horsbak honorably apoynted.

“The said cappitayne of Barrwyk, and my lady hys wyffe accompayned of many gentylnen and gentywomen rychly arayde and clothed of a liveray, went with the said quene to Edinburgh.

“Before the said quene war by ordre Johannes and hys company, and Henry Glasebery and hys company, the trompetts, officers of armes, and serjeants of masse, so that at the departing out of the said Barrwyk and at hyr Bedward at Lambertonkerke it was a joy for to see and here.

“In such stat and aray the said quene cam out of Barrwyk, ichon by ordre, the lordes and nobles thre and thre togeder, to the said Lambertonkerke, and the company behind well apoynted and in fair aray, that it was estimed that ther war of the parte of the said quene xviii C. or two M horsys well apoynted.”

1509.—Leland states, that “at Kiley (Kiloe) primis annis Henrici VIII., not far from Norham, in the lordship of the bishop of Durham, was found betwixt two stones, bokels of an arming girdle, tpype and barres of the same, of pure gold, a pernel and crosse for a sword of gold; bokels and typps of gold for spurs.”

1510.—A great number of the people of Newcastle, headed by some of the aldermen and principal men of that town, assembled at Jesmond, with intent to kill the prior of Tynemouth.

1513 (*Aug. 30*).—The earl of Surrey in the absence of Henry VIII., ordered a rendezvous of military forces at Newcastle. He arrived at that town on the above day, (having procured, to insure his success, the banner of St. Cuthbert from the church at Durham), where he heard mass and had the standard displayed before him during the ceremony), on an expedition against Scotland. He was joined at Alnwick, on the 4th of September, by his son Thomas, lord admiral, accompanied with a great number of forces, which he had brought by sea to Newcastle. On the 9th was fought the memorable battle of Flodden Field, in Northumberland. It commenced at four o'clock in the afternoon, and continued until dark.

King James IV. was slain, with his natural son, the bishop of St. Andrews, two other Scots prelates, four abbots, twelve earls, seventeen lords, four hundred knights, and seventeen thousand others, among whom were many esquires and men of note. When the king of Scots was perceived to be in imminent danger, those near his person formed themselves in circular order, and all fell by the sword, except Sir William Scott, his chancellor, and Sir John Foreman, who were taken prisoners. The royal body was not discovered till the next day, when, in a circle of his slain nobility, he was found by Lord Dacres, who was well acquainted with his person. He was wounded in many parts, pierced also by several arrows: his left hand was almost severed from the arm by two several wounds, and his neck was laid open to the middle. His body was embalmed at Berwick, was afterwards sent to Newcastle, and from thence to Richmond, in Surrey. The loss of the English was computed at 1,500 men, in which number scarce a man of note was included. The disproportion of the slain was attributed to the English artillery and archers. The victorious earl of Surrey, deposited the standards taken in the field in the cathedral of Durham, and presented to the herald's office the sword and dagger of the vanquished monarch. This battle is sometimes called the battle of Branxton, from the main scene of action lying near that village; but commonly the battle of Floddon, because the Scots were encamped on Floddon-hill, and from thence drawn out of their entrenchments to fight, by the earl of Surrey secretly marching through the narrow defiles about Crookham, and cutting off their retreat. In Branxton West-field is a rough upright column of basalt, to commemorate this great victory.

1515.—About this year, the stone gateway at the entrance of the college at Durham from the Baileys was erected by Prior Castell. Above it is the chapel of St. Helen, not now used, and the old Exchequer, where all the rents reserved in the chapter leases are made payable.

1516 (*May 2*).—By a decree of the Star Chamber, twenty-four auditors were to be chosen by the twelve crafts, to inspect the yearly accounts of the corporation of Newcastle, without any reward.

1523.—The Scottish army then lying at Coldstream, resolved to attempt the reduction of Wark, under the command of the duke of Albany, Sir John Lisle being then governor. Buchanan the historian being present at the siege gives the following description of the castle:—"In the innermost area was a tower of great strength and height, this was encircled with two walls, the outer including a large space, into which the inhabitants of the country used to fly with their cattle, corn, and flocks, in time of war; the inner of much smaller extent, but fortified more strongly by ditches and towers. It had a strong garrison, good store of artillery, and other things necessary for defence." The duke of Albany sent against it battering cannon, and a chosen band of Scots and French to the number of 4,000, under the command of Andrew Ker of

Fairherst. The French carried the outer inclosure at the first assault, but they were dislodged by the garrison setting fire to the straw laid up therein. The besiegers soon recovered it, and by their cannon effected a breach in the inner wall. The French with great intrepidity mounted the breach, sustaining great loss by the shot of those who possessed the tower or keep, and being warmly received by the forces that defended the inner ballium, were obliged to retire after a great slaughter. The attack was to have been renewed the next day, but the approach of the earl of Surrey, who before lay at Alnwick Castle with a large force, obliged the duke to relinquish his design.

1525 (*Oct. 10*).—A treaty was concluded at Berwick between the commissioners of King Henry VIII. and King James V., for a three years' peace; and in the year 1528 the truce was renewed; and the peace was continued for five years.

Thomas Horsley, who was mayor of Newcastle in the years 1514, 1519, 1524, 1525, and 1533, devised all his lands in that place, after his death and that of his wife, for the endowment of a grammar school, which was to be free for any within or without that town. This school was at first situated on the north-east side of St. Nicholas' church, in the large area called the church-yard, and before the burial place was railed in. In 1599, the 42d year of Queen Elizabeth's reign, it, by charter from that princess, became a royal foundation, and was removed to the hospital of St. Mary, in Westgate Street, its present situation.

1534.—This year, there was an alms-house near Stockbridge, in Newcastle, but when and for what particular purpose it was founded are alike unknown. Christopher Brigham, who was mayor of Newcastle in 1504, founded Brigham's alms-houses, which stood at the angle formed by Pilgrim Street and High Friar Street. It consisted of several dwelling houses, and was inhabited in 1576 by poor religious women. Elizabeth Nykson founded an alms-house about the beginning of the 16th century, for the use of the poor of All Saint's parish. Four Women, with the allowance of 20*s.* a-year, were to live in it. It stood in Pilgrim Street, opposite to the west end of All Saint's Church. In Bourne's time, the poor women in it had eight chaldrons of coals and 12*s.* a-year, but it was then "going fast to ruins." In Bourne's plan of Newcastle, the "*Spital alms-houses*" stands in Westgate Street, on the west side of the gate leading to the grammar school. On pulling down these houses not many years ago, the charity was removed to the Pudding Chare, where it now is, but what has become of the revenues of the other alms-houses?

1535.—An act of Parliament was passed declaring Hartlepool, whose inhabitants claimed to be parcel of the county of Northumberland, to be, in future, parcel of the county of York only, but in 1645, this place still appears to have been considered as forming part of the county of Northumberland.

1539 (*Jan. 12*).—Robert Blakeney, prior, with fifteen monks and three novices, surrendered the monastery of Tynemouth to

King Henry VIII. An annual pension of eighty pounds was assigned to the prior, and smaller ones to each of the monks and novices. The possessions of this monastery, at the dissolution, were very large, having twenty villages in Northumberland with their royalties. They had also the tythes of various other villages in Northumberland and Durham. Several messuages in Newcastle belonged to them, as also the impropriations and advowsons of numerous churches in Northumberland. The village of Benwell, near Newcastle, belonged to this monastery, and the old tower which forms part of the mansion-house (now in ruins) was the prior's summer residence.

1539 (*Dec. 31.*)—The prior, Hugh Whitehed, and convent, surrendered the monastery of Durham to the King. The whole of these institutions in Northumberland and Durham were suppressed, and their plate, revenues, and other property, taken possession of for the king. There were suppressed in England and Wales, 643 monasteries, 90 colleges, 2,374 churches and free schools, and 110 hospitals. Their yearly value amounted to £160,000., besides the money which arose from the materials of the houses, from plate, jewels, and church ornaments.

This year, the society of keelmen was instituted at Newcastle.

1541 (*May 12.*)—King Henry VIII., by his letters patent, founded the cathedral church of Durham.

This year, while the king was at York, expecting an interview with the king of Scotland, which had been agreed upon, and which would have taken place if James had not broken the appointment; the mayor of Newcastle waited upon him with a present of £100. The year following hostilities re-commenced between the two kingdoms.

1543.—On the death of James V. of Scotland, King Henry projected a marriage between his son Edward then only five years of age, and Mary the infant queen of that kingdom (the beautiful and unfortunate Mary, queen of Scots); certain Scottish nobles, who had been made prisoners at a late defeat near Solway, were deputed into Scotland for this purpose, where they arrived about the middle of January, having first delivered hostages to the duke of Suffolk, lieutenant of the north, at Newcastle, for their return. Faction, however, prevented also this laudable intention of extinguishing the inveterate animosity of the two nations.

1544 (*March 21.*)—An invasion of Scotland having been determined on, Edward Seymour, earl of Hertford, and John Dudley, lord high admiral, were appointed for this expedition. The former led the army to Newcastle. The lord high admiral arrived at Tynemouth on the above day, with a fleet of men of war and 200 transports, on board of which 10,000 men were embarked about the end of April for Scotland, and having landed at Leith, and become masters of Edinburgh, which they sacked and burnt, they returned to Berwick on the 18th day of May.

This year, a plague raged at Newcastle.

1545 (*May 2.*)—At an array of forces destined to act against

Scotland, the bishop of Durham had of able men, archers 280, spearmen 4, bill-men 494.

1547 (*Aug. 28*).—An army was prepared for the invasion of Scotland, under the command of Edward Seymour, duke of Somerset, lord protector during the minority of Edward VI. The army first assembled at Newcastle, and were there mustered on the above day by John Dudley, earl of Warwick. Here they remained three days, during which time, "A newe paire of gallows were set up in the market place, and a souldier hanged for quarrelling and fighting." By this time a fleet of 34 ships of war, 30 transports, and a galley, under the command of Sir George Clinton, had arrived, when a general muster was made, and the army which consisted of 18,000 marched to Berwick, where they lay encamped without the walls, after which they defeated the Scots near Musselburgh, September 10, when 13,000 of the latter were slain. After this expedition, he returned to Newcastle, where he conferred the honour of knighthood on Robert Brandling, then mayor.

Edward VI. who began his reign this year, founded a grammar school at Morpeth.

This year, all the sands called shores of the river Tyne, were settled on the corporation of Newcastle, for the maintenance of that town and preservation of the port of Newcastle.

Berwick, after undergoing various sieges by both nations, was in the reigns of King Edward VI., and Queen Mary of Scotland, made a *county town*, and as Rymer notes it, "a free town, independent of both nations."

1549.—The Scotch, under the command of D'Esse, a French general of great military skill, made an attack upon the castle of Ford, and laid the greatest part of it in ashes.

1550.—Great repairs were made in the fortress of Berwick, which amounted to so large a sum as £6,000.

1551.—A treaty was signed in the church of Norham, between the commissioners of England and Scotland.

1552.—In the months of July and August, the earl of Northumberland, as lord warden general of all the marches, diligently surveyed them in person. He was at Newcastle August 12, where he appointed Lord Wharton his deputy. Several articles of discipline relating to the defence of the borders were established or revived on this occasion; watches by day and night were stationed in each of the marches. These were under the superintendence of the principal gentlemen in the neighbourhood of each, or of the officers and tenants of the king, who were intitled overseers to set and search them.

1553.—The bishopric of Durham was dissolved, and Gateshead was annexed by act of parliament to Newcastle. King Edward VI. proposed to have erected a bishopric at Newcastle,* out of part of the dissolved see, but these purposes were defeated by his

* Nicholas Ridley, a native of Northumberland, was named to be the Newcastle bishop.

death, and on the accession of Queen Mary, the bishopric of Durham was restored. Gateshead was also in 1554 taken from Newcastle, and restored to the county of Durham.

1553.—This year, it was enacted by act of parliament, that in Newcastle there should be no greater number than four taverns or wine sellers to sell or utter wine by retail.

This year, Morpeth first returned members to parliament.

1555 (Oct. 16).—Nicholas Ridley, the venerable bishop of London, suffered martyrdom, along with his friend Latimer, being burnt at a stake before Baliol college, Oxford. He was born at Willimoteswick, in Northumberland, and received the rudiments of his education at Newcastle, from whence he removed to Pembroke Hall, Cambridge, where he obtained a fellowship in 1524.

1557.—Bishop Tunstal, granted a charter to the company of glovers, within the borough of Gateshead; he also incorporated the barkers and tanners of Gateshead.

June 23.—The same year, by a decree of the privy council, the number of aldermen of Newcastle, were increased from six to ten.

1558.—Sir Henry Percy was defeated by the Scots, under the command of the earl of Bothwell, at a place called Haltwellsweire, in the parish of Ford. Percy made a gallant attack at the head of 1,000 horse; but his cavalry being thrown into disorder by a sudden discharge of fire arms from a party of the Scots, fled in disorder and were pursued over the Till. Bothwell took above 120 prisoners, among whom were Errington and Ker, captains of light horse.

This year, a battle was fought at Grindon, in Northumberland, between the English and the Scots, the latter of whom were defeated by Sir Thomas and Sir Henry Percy.

1559.—As Mr. Anderson, a merchant and alderman of Newcastle, was leaning over the bridge at that place, and handling his ring, he dropt it into the river. Some time after, his servant bought a salmon in the market, in which the same ring was found, and most unexpectedly restored to its owner. The ring is in possession of the family of the Rev. E. Anderson, of Yorkshire. It has a fish engraven under the signet.

About the end of this year, the duke of Norfolk arrived at Newcastle, as lord lieutenant general of the north, to muster an army, which in conjunction with a fleet of ships of war, were intended to support the protestant party in Scotland, against the great forces that had been transported thither by the French. Queen Elizabeth, in a letter to the duke, dated December the 30th, desires him to borrow seven or eight hundred pounds of the Newcastle merchants, till her own money should arrive, the carriage of which was troublesome and tedious during winter. By letters from his grace at Newcastle, to the privy council dated February 16 and 20, it appears that ships of that town were to be well provided and sent to sea within ten days, carrying 400 soldiers, besides a sufficient quantity of mariners for the reinforcement of the royal fleet, then lying in Edinburgh Frith. The queen's commissioners, Sir William

Cecil, knt., her principal secretary, and Doctor Wotton, dean of Canterbury and York, were appointed to meet and treat with those of the French king, and to be at Newcastle by the 5th of June the same year.

1559.—Queen Elizabeth, who began her reign this year, founded in Berwick a free grammar school, and placed it under the patronage of the guild of that town.

Near Kirkharle, in Northumberland, the seat of Sir Charles Loraine, bart., is a stone pillar erected on the spot where Robert Loraine, Esq., was slain by a band of moss troopers, in Queen Elizabeth's reign.

1560.—James Pilkington was elected to the see of Durham. He was the first protestant bishop of that diocese. This bishop visited his cathedral in 1561 and 1567, and probably, in the latter year, removed the superstitious books and ornaments, and caused to be defaced the idolatrous figures from the church plate.

1561.—Queen Elizabeth appointed Lord Hunsdon governor of Berwick, to take the charge and government of the town of Newcastle and county of Northumberland, under the earl of Essex.

1562.—Died, in London, Dr. William Gibson, a native of Morpeth. Dr. Gibson flourished at the same time with his townsman Dr. Turner, and like him wrote several books against the popish doctrines, one of which was entitled "*The Treasons of the Prelates since the Conquest.*" He acquired great fame for his extraordinary attainments in physic, divinity, history, and botany. Being a warm friend to the reformation, he became an exile in the reign of Queen Mary, after whose death he returned to England. He wrote on the nature of Herbs, &c.

1564.—A person of the name of Partrage was executed at Newcastle, for coining false money in that town. "This year, 1564, Partrage was put down for coyning false money in the great innes, in Pilgrim Street."

This year, a conference was held at Berwick on the subject of the marriage of Mary, queen of Scots.

1565 (*Jan. 30*).—Bishop Pilkington granted a charter of incorporation to the inhabitants of Durham and Framwellgate, appointing Christopher Sewarties, the first alderman, and William Walton, William Wright, Robert Anderson, Christopher Mayor, Thomas Knighton, Hugh Whitfield, Edward Hudspeth, Peter Pattenson, William Harper, Gilbert Nixon, Edward Renelly, and John Anderson, the first assistant burgesses. Previous to this, the chief officer in the city was styled bailiff.

1566 (*March 9*).—After the murder of Rizzio, the favourite of Mary queen of Scots, which took place on the above day, the earl of Morton, with the Lords Ruthven, Maitland, and Lindsay, fled to Newcastle, where Lord Ruthven falling ill of a fever, departed this life. His death occasioned little regret, and his name lives in history only as that of a titled murderer. Morton and his son continued lurking near Alnwick, and other places on the borders, till they obtained their pardon and were restored.

1566.—This year, Mary, queen of Scots, went to view Berwick, when the deputy governor and his train having met her at the extremity of the liberties, conducted her to Hallidown-hill, and from thence to the west end of the town where she commanded a perfect view of the place, and was saluted by a general discharge of cannon. In 1588, James VI. of Scotland went through the same ceremony and received the same warlike salute.

1567 (*June 15*).—Queen Elizabeth by charter founded a grammar school at Darlington, through the solicitations of Henry earl of Darlington and Bishop Pilkington, whose influence the inhabitants had sought for that purpose. A portrait of the royal foundress with her charter in her hand, was placed in the school by the late George Allan, Esq., F. S. A., as a memorial of his gratitude in having received part of his education there.

1568 (*July 7*).—Died, in London, William Turner, A. M., and M. D., the first English botanist and ornithologist. Dr. Turner was a native of Morpeth, and having entered Christ's College, Cambridge, became an excellent linguist, poet, and orator. Being a very zealous protestant, and writing several books in defence of the reformed doctrines, he was imprisoned by Bishop Gardiner and others then in power, but having escaped he fled beyond the seas. At Ferrara, in Italy, he commenced doctor in physic, gaining his degree there with great applause. On the accession of Elizabeth, he returned into England. He wrote "An Herbal" in folio, and a book of physic, as also treatises on birds, fishes, plants, stones, metals, &c.

1569 (*Nov. 13*).—The deep attachment of the northern provinces to the ancient faith, together with the interest inspired by the misfortunes of Mary, queen of Scots, and by the fears entertained for the safety of the duke of Norfolk, who had been sent prisoner to the tower, for aspiring to a marriage with the queen of Scots, roused the earls of Westmorland and Northumberland, with a tumultuary force of 1,500 men, which in their progress swelled to double that number. The first efforts of the insurgents were directed against Durham. On the above day they entered the city, tore and trampled underfoot the English bibles and books of common prayer, and celebrated mass in the cathedral. From thence, whilst a party of the rebels occupied Hartlepool, their main body moved southwards by easy journies, Richard Norton, an old gentleman, with a reverend grey head, bearing a cross with a streamer before them, as far as Clifford moor, near Weatherby, where they mustered 4,000 foot, and 600 horse. Meanwhile Sir George Bowes was raising a power in the bishopric, in the rear of the insurgents; and the earl of Sussex was advancing in their front with 3,000 men, and followed by a large force under the earl of Warwick. They now began to retreat before the royal forces, and having reached Cumberland, greatly reduced, the earls, with a few horse, fled into Scotland. The earl of Northumberland was betrayed by a faithless borderer, and expiated his errors on the scaffold at York. The earl of Westmorland escaped into Flanders, where he died in

extreme old age. Some of the other principal conspirators received pardons. Norton, the aged patriarch, and others escaped over seas, and entered the Spanish service. Sixty-six persons suffered death at Durham, among whom were Plumtree, a priest; Struther, an alderman; and several peace officers, who had acted under the orders of the insurgents. In a tract of sixty miles, from Weatherby to Newcastle, it is said, there was scarcely a village which did not witness the execution of some of the deluded offenders. Several were put to death at York, and others attainted of high treason, and their estates forfeited. The bridge at Barnard castle was destroyed on this occasion. The present bridge was commenced building the same year, as appears by a stone in the wall fronting Bridge-gate, inscribed "E. R. 1569."

1574 (*April 2*).—Queen Elizabeth by charter founded "the free grammar-school and alms-house of Kepyner, in Houghton-le-Spring, in the county of Durham," and appointed John Heath of Kepyner, esq., and Bernard Gilpin, rector of Houghton, the first governors. The eminently pious Gilpin during his life superintended this institution with the most pains-taking solicitude.



1575.—William Flower, esq., norroy king of arms, granted the addition of a helmet, crest, and supporters, to the ancient arms of Newcastle. No motto occurs in this grant. In all probability the motto was added after the gallant defence of the town against the Scots. See *Jan. 15, 1644*.

1576.—Queen Elizabeth caused many of the old works of defence at Berwick, to be erased, and new fortifications erected upon a modern plan, by which their extent was considerably abridged.

1577.—Gateshead before it shrunk under the influence of Newcastle, had a borough market, which according to depositions taken this year, was held twice a-week (*Tuesday and Friday*), and extended from the market cross, betwixt the tollbooth and the pant, to the blue stone on Tyne bridge, or to the Bridge-gate. The tollbooth stood in the main street nearly opposite to the west end of Oakwellgate. It had formerly been a school and latterly a place

The true motto is "Fortiter Defendendo Triumphans" — see xvi.

of confinement for disorderly persons. At this period also the penfold, afterwards removed to Windmill-hills, stood in the middle of the street opposite to the five wanned-mill. The post-road came down St. Mark's-lane (corrupted to Mirk-lane), and entered Gateshead by Half-moon-lane, or Miller's Chare.

1578 (*Aug. 7*).—Thomas Rowland was pressed to death on the Palace green, in the city of Durham, and buried at St. Nicholas' church there.

1579.—This year, the mayor, aldermen, and sheriff of Newcastle, wrote to the bailiffs of Yarmouth, on account of a grievous plague which had carried off, between May and Michaelmas, about 2,000 persons, to forbid their ships to come to that place as usual for coals.

1580.—The ancient house now called Anderson Place, in Pilgrim Street, Newcastle, was built by Robert Anderson, merchant, out of the offices, and nearly upon the site of the Franciscan Priory. King Charles I., when a prisoner at Newcastle, was confined in this house. See *May 13*, 1646.

On a bridge of one arch over the Devil Water, on the road from Hexham to Slaley, the following inscription, boldly cut in relief in Roman capitals, occurs on a stone in the middle of the battlement:—GOD PRESERVI W. E.—Winfoird Erengrton *Beldete* THIS BRIGE OF LYME AND STONE, AN. DO. 1581.

The following curious entry occurs in Hart parish register. *The witches of Hart*—28th July, 1582, office of Master Chancellor against Allison Lawe of Hart. "*She is a notorious sorceor and enchanter. Sentence to do penance once in the market-place at Durham, "with a papir on her head," once in Hart Church, and once in Norton Church. Janet Bainbridge, and Janet Allinson, of Stockton, were accused of "asking counsell of witches, and resorting to Allison Lawe for cure of the sickie."*

1583 (*March 4*).—Died, in the 66th year of his age, Bernard Gilpin, whose boundless charity, and meritorious exertions to enlighten his fellow creatures, obtained him the pre-eminent appellation of "THE NORTHERN APOSTLE." He was rector of Houghton-le-Spring, in the county of Durham, and founder of the free grammar school in that place.

1587.—The plague raged with great violence in the neighbourhood of Hartlepool; it is not mentioned in the register of that place, though the deaths amounted to 26, nearly double the usual number. In the Stranton register it is stated May 21, "heere began the sickness," and at Hart "89 corses" were buried, one of which was "a young woman unknown, who died in the street."

This year, there was a great scarcity of grain at Durham, wheat 16s. 4d. the bushel; rye 13s. 4d.; haver (oats) 5s. 9d.: grotes 4s. a peck; pease 12s. a bushel; bigg 6s.; haver-malt 5s. 6d. The prices fell in harvest, and next year, wheat was 3s. 4d. a bushel, and oats 2s.

August 12, this year, the earl of Huntingdon, president of the north, ordered a general array of all the fencible men of the county

of Durham, betwixt the ages of 16 and 60, on Spenny-moor. There appeared 9,000 men ready to serve her majesty.

1588 and 1589.—A grievous plague raged at Newcastle, of which there died in all 1,727 persons. This latter year the plague broke out and raged in Durham for a considerable time; after abating for some months, which gave hopes that the tremendous visitation was about to cease, it appeared again with redoubled violence, so as to oblige the poorer people to be removed into huts and sheds on the adjacent commons, particularly Elvet-moor, where the marks of arrangement of melancholy cells were distinctly to be observed before the enclosures, on the south side of the hill, below the wood.

1589.—Newcastle was made a free town, and for ever to be known under the designation of the mayor and burgesses of the town of Newcastle upon Tyne, at the same time receiving an admiralty jurisdiction within their own liberties, exempt from the power of the lord high admiral of England.

The corporation of Newcastle occurs about this time as keeping their fool. The following entry is in St. John's register:—"August, 1589, Edward Errington the towne's foole, buried the 23d of of August, died in the peste." I copied the following from the MS. notes in the late Alderman Hugh Hornby's copy of Brand's History of Newcastle, Vol. II., p. 448, where the above paragraph is given;—"I think it appears plainly from entries in the town's books of payments, that the *fools* have been *idiots* kept at the expence of the corporation. Edward Errington, and John Watson, are both mentioned at the same time; another payment is for hose and shoves to *Thomas Dodds, a natural*, in 1594. A petticoat is sometimes mentioned as part of the cloathing. (*Fools*), in 1595, paide *dame Clarke* for keeping Allon the foole, xijd. In 1566, 'item, paide for cowlinge of Bartye Allyson, the foole, this year, xvjd.' Among other payments in 1595, are the following:—"For cloaths, *Allon, foole, a long cote—Thomas Dodds, foole, a petticoat.*' In the same year, 'paide to John Lawson, *foole*, towards mendinge of his sore legg, xijd.' (*Fools*), Jan. 1561, 'item, paide for ij payr of shoves to the ij ffules agaynste Chrystynmas, ijs. iiijd.' In the same year, a payment is made for vij yardes of *yalowe carsay* and vij yardes of *blewe carsaye* for the *fulles cotties* and *cappes*, agaynst Christymas."

1590 (*May 27*).—Edmund Duke, born in Kent, Richard Hill, John Hogg, and Richard Holyday, all natives of Yorkshire, and Roman catholic priests, were executed at Durham. As I shall have frequent occasion to relate these appalling transactions (no less than 13 catholics having suffered death for their religion in Northumberland and Durham), it may here be necessary to inform my readers, that according to an act passed in the 27th year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, priests made by Roman authority, were forbid under pain of death to come over into England or remain here. From 1577 to 1603, I find that 124 priests, and 57 laymen and women suffered death under this act.

1591.—St. Giles church, in the city of Durham, is of very remote origin. In the chancel is a recumbent effigy cut in wood, traditionally said to belong to one of the Heath family, buried here in the above year. It represents a male figure in complete armour, the hands elevated, and the head resting upon a helmet with a bear's paw for the crest. The views from this church-yard are delightful and extensive.

1592.—In the old register book of St. Nicholas' parish, in the city of Durham, is the following remarkable entry:—"Simson, Arrington, Fetherstone, Fenwicke, and Lanckaster, were hanged for being Egyptians." In another part of the register the same event is recorded in these words:—"1592, Simson, Arrington, Fetherstone, Fenwicke, and Lancaster, *Egyptiaci suspensi fuerunt anno supradicto, August 8.*"

1593 (*Jan. 7*).—Edward Waterson, Roman catholic priest, a native of London, was executed at Newcastle.

February 3.—This year, Queen Elizabeth, granted (at the suit and request of Sir John Lumley, Lord Lumley,) a new charter to the burgesses and inhabitants of Hartlepool, and among other privileges a market on Tuesday in every week (now holden on Saturday), and a yearly fair beginning on the vigil of St. Lawrence, to continue 15 days; a court of pie poudre, &c. with tollage, stallage, &c. It is likewise expressed that the mayor and burgesses shall have so many, as great, and the like privileges, &c. as the mayor and burgesses of Newcastle upon Tyne.

(*July 27*).—Joseph Lampton, a Roman catholic priest, born at Malton, in Yorkshire, was executed at Newcastle. He was of the ancient family of Lampton, of South Biddick, in the county of Durham.

1594 (*Feb. 4*).—John Speed, layman, was executed at Durham. His crime was being aiding and assisting to Roman catholic priests.

(*July 24*).—John Bost or Boast, Roman catholic priest, a native of Penrith, was executed at Durham. The next day John Ingram, a native of Warwickshire, was executed at Gateshead, and on the 26th, George Swallowell, a native of the county of Durham, was executed at Darlington. These were both Roman catholic priests, and tried and condemned with Mr. Boast.

This year, Tobias Matthew, bishop of Durham, incorporated by charter, the following trades in Gateshead, viz.:—The dyers, fullers, blacksmiths, locksmiths, cutlers, joiners and carpenters; and the cordwainers, in 1602.

This year, Bishop Matthew granted a license, authorising John, baron of Lumley, to translate to the church of Chester-le-Street, the remains and monuments of his ancestors, particularly of John Lumley and Ralph Lumley, from the yard of the cathedral at Durham, where they were placed near the north door. The north aisle of Chester church is solely appropriated to and filled with a solemn arrangement of 14 effigies of this illustrious family.

1597 (*May 21*).—The following occurs in the parochial register

of Stranton, in the county of Durham, under this date, "Heere began the sickness" (the plague). The burials in the preceding year are 52; in the above year 93, amongst the victims are "Raphe Turner y^e vicar, July 27. Richard Turner, brother to y^e said Raphe, buried the same day."

1597 (*July 4*).—The assizes were deferred on account of the plague then raging at Newcastle, and the following places in the county of Durham:—Durham, Darlington, Gateshead, Whickham, Stainton, Burdon, Boldon, Houghton, Chester, Billingham, St. Helen, Auckland, Wolsingham, Aycliffe, and in several other places. The poor inhabitants of the city of Durham, were lodged in huts erected upon the moors near that place. Bishop Matthew retired to his castle at Stockton to avoid the infection. October 17, there were dead of the plague at Darlington, 340 persons. October 27, there was dead in Elvet, in the city of Durham, more than 400; in St. Nicholas' parish 100; in St. Margaret's 200; in St. Giles' 60; in St. Mary's, in the North Bailey 60. Twenty-four prisoners died in goal. 215 deaths are recorded in the parish of St. Nicholas, Durham, between the 11th of July and the 27th of November. Many of these persons were buried on the moor, or in St. Thomas's chapel, beyond Claypath.

August 26.—Anthony Arrowsmith, arraigned of murder at Durham, stood mute upon his trial, and was pressed to death in the market place there.

1598 (*Jan. and Feb.*).—The plague ceased at Durham and Darlington, but broke out again on the 15th of September the same year.

September 16.—This year, William Marshall, of London, was hanged at Durham, and buried at St. Nicholas' church.

1599 (*March 22*).—Queen Elizabeth, granted a charter to the mayor and burgesses of Newcastle: this, which is called THE GREAT CHARTER, constitutes the basis of their constitution, and cost them £634. 10s.

June 25.—This year, Queen Elizabeth founded at Hexham a free school, with an ample stipend for a master, and the master's house was built by subscription.

The following is an entry in the register of St. John's church, in Newcastle:—"Buried, Clement Roderforthe, gentleman; was executed in the castle the 22d day of August, 1599."

Aug. 29.—This year, Francis Cully and Bryan Gant, were hanged at Durham, and buried at St. Nicholas' church.

1600 (*Aug. 9*).—Thomas Palasor, a Roman catholic priest, and John Norton, in whose house he was apprehended, and Mr. John Talbot, for being found in his company, and for aiding and assisting him, were executed at Durham.

1601 (*Sept. 21*).—The city of Durham obtained a charter of incorporation from the crown, which Bishop Matthew opposed as an infringement of his franchise, and after a long and expensive suit in the Exchequer, succeeded in quashing the royal charter,

and then granted one himself, placing the city which had hitherto been governed by a bailiff, under a mayor and aldermen. Hugh Wright was elected the first mayor on the above day.

1601.—This year, Elizabeth Jennison, widow of Thomas Jennison, Esq. founded a school at Heighington, in the county of Durham. A handsome new school-house was erected in 1812, and was opened June 9, 1813.

1602.—Andrew Tate was tried and convicted of the murder and robbery of several persons at Burnhall, near Sunderland Bridge, in the county of Durham, and he was hanged on the high road, where the ways to Ferryhill and Auckland divide.

The following is extracted from the register of All Saints' church, in Newcastle:—"Robert Brandling, merchant adventurer, executed and buried, 30 Julie, 1602."

Sometime in the reign of Queen Elizabeth (between the years 1558 and 1603), came over to England from Lorraine, the Henzells, Tyzacks, and Tytorys. The reason of their coming hither was the persecution of the protestants in their own country, of whose persuasion they were. They were by occupation glass-makers. They settled at Newcastle, and wrought in their trade at the Close-gate on the river Tyne, but after that they removed into Staffordshire, from whence they returned again and settled upon the Tyne side, a little east of Newcastle, at a place called from their abiding in it the Glasshouses. Deservedly, therefore, have so many of these families been named Peregrines from the latin *peregrinus*, signifying a pilgrim or a stranger. Having at last settled here they became very numerous, and generally intermarried to preserve the three names of Henzell, Tyzack, and Tytory. There are still of the two former, but the last has been for many years extinct.

1603.—On the death of Queen Elizabeth, King James VI. of Scotland, was proclaimed at Berwick, March 26, king of England, France and Ireland, by the name of King James I. On the 5th of April, his Majesty began his journey from Edinburgh, with a splendid train, and the next day he entered Berwick, where Matthew, bishop of Durham, met the king and preached before him. On his Majesty's entrance into Berwick, there were great rejoicings by the garrison and inhabitants. April the 9th, his majesty on his way from Scotland to take possession of the crown of England, arrived at Newcastle. On the following Sunday, the bishop of Durham preached before him at St. Nicholas' church, in that town, from the 2d Chron. xv. chap. 1. and 2. verses. The inhabitants were so transported with his arrival and presence, that during his stay they bore all the charges of his household. April the 13th, his majesty arrived at the city of Durham, where he was received by the magistrates, and afterwards entertained in the castle by the bishop, who attended him with an hundred gentlemen. Next day his majesty left the castle, and rested at Walworth house, at that time the residence of Mrs. Jennison, widow of Thomas Jennison, Esq.

1603.—This year Bishop Matthew demised Norham castle, Northamshire, and Islandshire, to the king, who immediately granted Norham to George Hume, earl of Dunbar, and it has ever since remained severed from the see.

The mansion house at Gibside, in the county of Durham, was founded by Sir William Blakiston, in the reign of King James I. There is a fine view of Gibside-house, chapel, and monument, from Bryan's-leap, which stands on the heights above Gibside. This view is engraven in Mr. Surtees' splendid history of the county of Durham.

The following is extracted from the register of All Saint's church, in Newcastle:—"Dame Whittingham, murdered by her husband, buried 17th April, 1634."

1604.—The plague again broke out in St. Giles' parish, in the city of Durham. This is the last entry relative to the plague in Durham, which had lasted, with intermissions, from 1589, during which period it had carried off great numbers of the inhabitants, as well the rich as the poor.

March 31.—King James I. granted a charter to the mayor and burgesses of Newcastle, which finally and solidly established to this opulent body, its large immunities; that fully defined the time and manner of electing its mayor, sheriff, chamberlains, &c.; the duration and office of electors and aldermen; and that clearly pointed out the nature and extent of the jurisdiction of its magistrates, the privileges of the freemen, and the liberties of the town.

April 30.—This year, King James I. granted a charter to the town of Berwick, confirming their rights and privileges.

1605 (*Feb. 27*).—Lord Howard, who was admiral of the port of Newcastle, and the river Tyne, resigned it to the mayor and burgesses of Newcastle, with power to hold a court of admiralty.

1608.—This year, about ten feet of the centre or highest spire of St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, was taken down and rebuilt. The corporation have been charged with the reparation of this steeple from time immemorial.

1609, and the following year, the plague raged at Newcastle, as appears by St. Nicholas' register of burials.

1610 (*Jan. 4*).—King James I. re-founded St. Edmund's hospital, in Gateshead, by letters patent, for the reception of three poor old men, and ordered that it should henceforth bear the name of "KING JAMES'S HOSPITAL."

July 26.—Greatham hospital in the county of Durham, was re-founded, and a new charter granted.

This year, 78 deaths "*of the pestilence*" occur in the parish register of Lamesley, in the county of Durham.

1615 (*Jan. 10*).—Many of the gentry of Durham, assembled at the quarter sessions, to consult on obtaining knights and burgesses to sit in parliament for the county and city.

This year, there was a general muster of all the men fit to bear arms in the county of Durham, between the ages of 16 and 60,

upon Spenny moor, near Whitworth. The whole number of men who appeared at the array was 8,820. The city of Durham and suburbs furnished 560.

1616 (*July 19*).—Richard Lumley, of Lumley, in the county of Durham, was on the above day, knighted by King James I. July 12th, 1628, King Charles I. created him Viscount Lumley, of Waterford, in Ireland. During the Scots rebellion, his loyalty to the king was unshaken, and he formed his castle at Lumley, into a formidable garrison. He was a principal commander under Prince Rupert, and was at the siege of Bristol, where he remained until it surrendered to the parliamentary forces in 1645.

July 23.—Robert Carneby and Thomas Reade, were executed at Durham, for felony. They were buried at St. Oswald's church.

This year, Dilston hall, in Northumberland, was built by Francis Radcliff, Esq. After the attainder of James, earl of Derwentwater, the estates were forfeited and given to Greenwich Hospital, and this hall falling into ruin, was completely removed by the advice of Mr. Smeaton.

1617 (*April 17*).—King James I. on his progress into Scotland, arrived at Auckland palace and remained there till the 19th. On the 18th, (Good Friday), one of his Majesty's footmen named Master Heburne, arrived in the city of Durham, and signified to George Walton, esq, mayor, that it was his majesty's pleasure to enter that place in state on the 19th, Easter eve. The king came in by Elvet, and the mayor, mounted on horseback, received him on Elvet bridge. Master Heburne took his station near the mayor and aldermen, until the king's arrival, when a loyal speech was delivered by the mayor, who surrendered to his majesty the staff and mace, and also presented in the name of the city, a silver bowl, gilt, with a cover. After having delivered his speech, the mayor was directed by Master Heburne to remount his horse and ride before his majesty, when having proceeded a few yards, a stop was made, whilst an apprentice recited some verses to his majesty. The mayor was then placed next the sword, and so bearing the city mace, rode before the king to the cathedral. On Easter Monday the king rode to see a horse-race on Woodham moor, and returned to Durham, and on the Tuesday, the 22d, being St. George's day, he continued his progress to Newcastle, where he was met upon the Sandhill, by the mayor (Lionel Maddison), aldermen, and sheriff; and after an oration made by the town-clerk, was presented by the mayor in the name of the corporation, with a great standing bowl, to the value of an hundred jacobuses, and an hundred merks in gold; the mayor carrying the sword before him, accompanied by his brethren on their foot-cloths. On the Sunday following, his majesty, with all his nobles, dined with the mayor, when it pleased the king to be served by the mayor and aldermen. The king left the town the next day. At this time there existed a tower on Elvet bridge, in the city of Durham.

This year, the lord president, and council of the north, kept their sitting in the guildhall of Newcastle, and Lord Sheffield being then

president and knight of the garter, celebrated the feast of St. George in the church of St. Nicholas there.

1617 *July 1*.—This year, Shincliff bridge, in the county of Durham, was nearly rebuilt. The middle arch was finished on the above day, and the whole work was completed before the end of summer.

1618 (*Aug. 18*).—Thomas Wright was executed at Dryburn, near Durham, for horse-stealing. He was buried at St. Oswald's church, in the city of Durham.

This year, the greater part of Haggerston castle was burnt down.

1619.—A grant was made of the site and demesnes of the castle of Newcastle by King James I. to Alexander Stephenson, esq. who was succeeded by one Patrick Black,* who died and left it in the possession of his widow. The following account of the castle-yard or garth is from the Milbanke MSS. "The way through the yard begins at the castle-gate, and when I was young there were no houses in it, but the house of one Thomas Southern, and the house of one Green; these houses were near the gate before you come into the castle yard; and there were in the garth a house wherein the gaoler of the castle dwelt, and a house wherein William Robinson dwelt, who was deputy herald under Norroy, king at arms. This man wrote in a book the arms of all the mayors of this town from Laurentius Acton, until his time; and when I was chamberlain of the town, which was about the time of Sir Nicholas Cole's being mayor, in the year 1640, it was then in the town's chamber; when Trollop built the town court, he borrowed it but would never return it." It is rather curious to compare the then state of the castle yard with its present crowded state; but it was still more crowded before the castle was cleared of such a number of buildings, a few years back.

1622 (*May 17*).—Lodowick Stewart, son of Esme Stewart, duke of Lennox, in Scotland, baron of Sistringham, in Yorkshire, was created the first earl of Newcastle upon Tyne.

This year, the mercer's company in London founded a lectureship in Hexham church, under the will of Richard Fishborne, esq.

1623 (*Nov. 27*).—Thomas Jackson, D. D., a native of Witton-le-Wear, in the county of Durham, was inducted to the vicarage of Newcastle. This very pious man and great scholar, died in 1640. His works were collected and published in 1673, in 3 vols. folio.

This year, the plague raged at Newcastle and Gateshead.

King James I. who died this year, established a grammar school at Bishop Auckland, on the petition of Anne Swyfte, who endowed it to the amount of 10*l.* annually.

1627 (*March 7*).—The title of the earl of Newcastle upon Tyne was revived by King Charles I., in the person of William Cavendish, Viscount Mansfield, and Baron Ogle. He fled for his loyalty to this unfortunate monarch, and lived eighteen years in exile.

1628.—Died Dr. George Carlton, a native of Norham, of which

* From this I would infer it derives the name of the Black or Black's gate.

his father was governor. He was educated at Houghton-le-Spring under the eminent Bernard Gilpin. He was afterwards removed to Oxford. He was one of the four divines sent by King James to the Synod of Dort. Dr. Carlton was bishop of Landaff, and afterwards of Chichester. His Life of Gilpin was originally written in Latin, but was soon translated, and ran through several editions. He was the author of several works.

1628 (*June 19*).—This year, Emanuel Lord Scroppe, of Bolton, who was the first earl of Sunderland, was created by King Charles I.

1629 (*June 11*).—Died, Robert Hegge, author of the Legend of St. Cuthbert, with the Antiquities of the Church of Durham. He was born in the city of Durham in 1599. In 1614, he was admitted scholar of Corpus Christi college, Oxford. He died suddenly of apoplexy before he had attained his 30th year, and was buried in the chapel of the said college. Four editions of the Legend have appeared at different times.

1630.—A most extraordinary and yet a seemingly well-attested account occurs of the fruitfulness of a Scotswoman, wife to a weaver, who bore him as is therein asserted, sixty-two children, all of whom lived till they were baptized: three or four of these children are represented as living in the above year at Newcastle.

Under this year, the following curious entry occurs in the parish register of Chester-le-Street:—"Paide to a poore woman the 19th of August, who haveinge her husband murtheard in his bed and haveinge certifycaite from Scotland, and a pass to travell to London, *haveinge a woolve in her weame feedinge, 12d.*"

1631.—The sheriff of Durham was ordered by the king in council, to apprehend offenders damaging the river Tyne, and to carry them before the mayor of Newcastle, conservator of the said river.

The chapel of St. Hilda, at South Shields, is of great antiquity, perhaps contemporary with Jarrow to which it is a chapel of ease. Little can be gathered from the structure as it has been so often altered. From the rapid increase of the town, which had, in about a century and a-half risen into great importance, it was found necessary to enlarge the burial ground, and in the above year, Bishop Howson consecrated a plot of ground for that purpose. It has had another extensive addition to its cemetery very recently.

1632.—The dean and chapter erected a very curious clock at the south end of the transept of the cathedral at Durham.

This year, at Shrovetide, there was a riot of the apprentices of Newcastle, on account of a new lime-kiln and ballast heap having been made without the gate of the town called Sandgate.

1633 (*May*).—King Charles I., on his progress to Scotland, was entertained at Raby Castle, by Sir Henry Vane; from thence he came on Friday, the 31st of May, to Auckland Castle, where he was entertained by Bishop Morton. The next day he came to Durham where a way was made through at the head of Elvet, that he might ride into the city where he was met by Sir William Belayse, high sheriff, and the gentlemen of the county. As soon as

his majesty alighted, he went first to the abbey church, a canopy of state was borne over him by eight prebendaries into the church, where he heard service, and a speech was made to him by Dean Hunt. Then his majesty went to the castle, and on the next day (Sunday) morning heard a sermon at the abbey, from the bishop, where none were admitted but his nobles, the clergy, and choir. After service he dined at the deanery, at the bishop's charge. Then he attended evening prayer, and after went to the castle, where he kept his court all the time he was at Durham, and did touch divers persons for the *king's evil*. His majesty was attended by the duke of Lenox, the earls of Newcastle and Suffolk, Cumberland, Pembroke,* and Northumberland; Lord Treasurer Weston, Lord Whar-ton, Lord Grey of Chillingham; the earls of Salisbury, Cleveland, Southampton, Northampton, and Holland, Doctor Laud, bishop of London, Doctor White, bishop of Ely, the Scots marquis of Ham-ilton, and Lord Bothwell. Whilst the king and his retinue were at Durham, they were entertained by the bishop at the expence of 1500*l.* a-day. June 3d, the king and his attendants arrived at Newcastle, where he was most honourably received and entertain- ed by the magistrates and corporation of that town. On the day following they dined with the mayor (Ralph Cole), who received the honor of knighthood on that occasion. June the 5th, the king visited Tynemouth castle. A few days after, his majesty arrived at Berwick, where he was met by the officers of the corporation and addressed by Mr. Widdrington (of Gray's Inn), the recorder, in a speech of considerable length, wherein Berwick is called "a town, the strongest fortress of both of your majesty's flourishing kingdoms; yet upon each discord and dissention, banded as a ball between them; if held in the hands of one, then tossed by the other kingdom, a ball that never found rest until the happy union," &c. &c.

1633 (*March 4*).—This year, Jo. Servant made public penitential confession at the market cross, in Durham, and paid £40. fine for a clandestine marriage with Jane Pinkney, his pretended wife, which pretended marriage was made in a private house in Cross-gate, in that city, by Mr. Flood, a Roman catholic priest.

1634.—Bishop Morton, desirous of encouraging the trade of Sunderland, granted a charter of incorporation to the burgesses and inhabitants, by the title of mayor, twelve aldermen and commonalty of the borough of Sunderland. Sir William Belaysye, knight, of Morton House, was the first and only mayor.

October 24.—This year, Berwick bridge was finished. It is an elegant structure consisting of fifteen arches, and occupied in building the space of twenty-four years, four months, and four days. It was built by Mr. James Burrell and Mr. Lancelot Branxton.

1635.—There was a great flood in the river Tees.

* During King Charles' abode at the castle, Dickey Pearson, the bishop's fool, and the last individual it is presumed who was entertained in that capacity, seeing the earl of Pembroke richly and fantastically dressed, accosted him very brotherly, "I am the bishop of Durham's fool, whose fool are you?"

1636.—The plague, which raged so dreadfully this year at Newcastle, is said to have come over from Holland and other parts beyond the seas. It began at North Shields, in October, 1635, and, after an intermission of some months, broke out again at Newcastle with such fury, that there died in all, of this tremendous visitation, between the 6th of May and the 31st of December, 1636, no less than 5037, and at Gateshead, between the 30th of May and October the 17th the same year, 515 persons. All trade was at a stand in Newcastle, and there is a tradition, that the streets of that town were covered with grass, "the highways were unoccupied." The plague raged so much in Darlington and the neighbourhood, that the fair held at Magdalen tide, was cried down.

1637 (*Aug. 7*).—At the assizes at Durham, Mr. John Trollop, the younger, was outlawed, for killing William Selby, Esq. of Newcastle, in a duel at Whitehall Dyke Nook.

August 27, this year, divine service was performed for the last time in the old church of St. Mary-le-Bow, in the city of Durham. Two days afterwards the old bow, or steeple, fell into the street, bringing down in its fall a great portion of the west end of the church. This church lay in ruins till 1683, when sufficient funds were raised for completing the present structure, which was opened for divine service in 1685. The parishioners built the west tower, under which is the entrance from the Bailey, in 1702. This church is said to stand upon the ground where St. Cuthbert's remains were first lodged.

1638 (*Aug. 6*).—At the assizes held before Judge Berkeley at Durham, the singular spectacle was presented of *trial by waging battle* being offered and accepted for deciding the right to lands at Thickleby, betwixt Ralph Claxton, *demandant*, and Richard Lilburne,* *tenant*. The defendant appeared at ten o'clock in the forenoon by his attorney, and brought in his champion, George Cheney, in full array, with his stave and sand-bag, who threw down his gauntlet on the floor of the court, with five small pieces of coin in it. The tenant then introduced his champion, William Peverell, armed in the same manner, who also threw down his gage. The judge, after examining the champions, ordered them into the custody of his two bailiffs of the court, till eight o'clock next morning, when they were ordered to put in pledges to appear at the court of pleas on the 15th of September, when it was again deferred to December 22, and the king desired the judges of the northern circuit to hold conference and consider how the cause might be tried some other way. The result of the conference was, that six of the judges overruled the objection by Justice Berkeley, that the champions were hired, the exception being too late after battle waged and sureties given, and that in fact Lilburne was entitled to his trial by battle if he persisted. Means were found, notwithstanding, to defer the trial by battle from year to year, by finding some

* Father of the well known John Lilburne.

error in the record, till at length it was ordered that a bill should be brought in to abolish this mode of decision.

1638.—This year, the following gentlemen were appointed collectors of the recusants' money to maintain a war against the Scots. For Durham, Sir Ralph Conyers, Mr. George Collingwood, and Mr. Edward Smith—for Northumberland, Sir William Fenwick, Sir Edward Radcliffe, and Mr. Haggerston. Durham furnished 532 musqueteers, and 500 pikemen: Northumberland 292 musqueteers and 125 pikemen; Newcastle 250 pikemen, 250 musqueteers, and 350 dragoons, for the king's service against the Scots. Those furnished by Northumberland and the town of Newcastle, were not to march into the field but upon special direction. A writ was sent to the mayor of Newcastle for the fortifying of that town at the charge of the inhabitants, according to the practice of former times.

1639 (*April 29*).—King Charles I. on his march against the Scots covenanters, left York, and arrived the same night at Raby castle, in the county of Durham, the seat of Sir Henry Vane, treasurer of his majesty's household, where he was nobly entertained. From thence he went to Durham, where Bishop Morton, with great expressions of joy and welcome, entertained his majesty during his stay there. The king remained at Durham, while the horse and foot intended to be levied there, were raised and upon their march. He arrived at Newcastle about the 5th of May, and continued till the 22d of that month. He was magnificently entertained by the mayor and magistrates; all the town seemed but as one man against the Scots in case of an invasion. Alexander Davidson, Esq. mayor, and Thomas Riddell, Esq. town clerk, were knighted by the king. The recorder at that time was a knight, being Sir Thomas Riddell, the elder, and then living, which disposed the king to honour his son with knighthood. May 28, the king drawing near to Berwick with his army, the lord general caused it to be drawn up, which his majesty took a view of, and placing himself at the head marched to the river Tweed. At a place called the Birks, two miles west of Berwick, the king pitched his tent within a large pavilion, and encamped there. The nobility and the king's household servants, bed chamber-men, and privy chamber-men, &c. pitched their tents near the king. May 30, the king went into Berwick, to see in what state that garrison was, and what provisions were laid in there for the troops, and the same day the earl of Newcastle marched with his troop, consisting of 100 horse into Berwick, from whence he sent out parties to scout upon the borders. This troop consisted of gentlemen of good estates and fortunes, who were all gallantly mounted; for the maintenance of which troop the king was put to no expence. June 18, peace was concluded between his majesty and the Scots deputies, in his pavilion at the Birks. June 22, his majesty came from his camp to Berwick, and on the 24th his army was dismissed and dissolved. The king remained at Berwick until July 28, when he took post

there, and passing through Newcastle, arrived at Whitehall on the first of August.

1639.—The following is extracted from the burial register of St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle:—"1639, Aug. 13, buried John Anderson, James Browne, George Cranson, Thos, Dabdell, Oswald Browne, Annas Hall, prison, executed."

This year, the town clerk's office and part of the exchange at Newcastle, were burnt, and several of the deeds and writings of the corporation destroyed.

The following is extracted from the parochial register of St. Andrew's church, in Newcastle:—"May, 1640, two sogers, for denying the king's pay, was by a council of war, appoynted to be shot att, and a pare of gallos set up before Thos. Malabers dore, in the Byg Market. They cust lotes which should dy, and the lotes did fall of one Mr. Anthone Viccars: and he was set against a wall and shott att by 6 lyght horseman, and was buried in our church-yarde the sam day, May 16, day."

1640 (*Aug. 20*).—Never on earth, perhaps, did so religious an army take the field as that of the Scots covenanters, who invaded England under General David Leslie, this year. At every captain's tent door the colours were flying, with the Scots arms upon them, and this motto in golden letters, "FOR CHRIST'S CROWN AND COVENANT." Daily sermons from their ministers, prayers morning and evening, under the canopy of heaven, to which they were called by beat of drum, besides reading the scriptures, praying and psalm singing, were to be heard in every tent. On the above day Leslie crossed the Tweed and marched without opposition to Newburn, a village about four miles above Newcastle, where Lord Conway, who commanded the royal forces in the absence of the earls of Northumberland and Strafford; had taken a position and thrown up entrenchments to defend the ford over the Tyne. On the 27th, the Scots pitched their tents on Heddon Law, above Newburn, from whence there was a continued descent to the river, and in the night made great fires in and round their camp, on an open moorish ground. The same night the king's army, consisting of 3,000 foot and 1,500 horse, were drawn out on Stella Haugh, a plain meadow ground, nearly a mile in length, on the south side of the Tyne, and their position was strengthened by two breast works, thrown up opposite the fordable plains of the river, and defended by cannon and musquetry. On the 28th, the Scots who had the advantage of the rising ground, brought down some pieces of cannon, and placed them in the church steeple of Newburn, and lined all the lanes and hedges about the village with their musquetry. In this posture both parties remained observing each other all the afternoon, without firing a shot, till an accidental circumstance occasioned the beginning of the engagement. A Scots officer well mounted, having a black feather in his hat, came out of one of the thatched houses in Newburn, and watered his horse in the Tyne; an English soldier perceiving that he fixed his eye on the trenches on the south side of the river, fired his piece and

brought the officer from his horse, upon which the Scots immediately fired a volley of musquetry at the English, and soon after began to play with their ordnance upon the sconces and breastworks, which the English returned by cannonading the Scots posted in the church and village. The advantage of position as well as of number and discipline, was decidedly with the Scots, and by the time that the ebb tide had rendered the river fordable, their cannon had driven the English from their main work, and Leslie perceiving the men running from their guns ordered a forlorn hope of 26 horse under a Major Ballantyne, to pass the river, with orders merely to reconnoitre, fire their pieces and retreat. The Scots continued meanwhile a heavy cannonade on the higher sconce or breastwork, and the forlorn hope, finding that also deserted by the English, established themselves on the south bank. The college of justice troop (that is, the troop composed of gentlemen connected with the law courts of Edinburgh), then went across the river under their commander Sir Thomas Hope, and were immediately followed by more horse, and by two foot regiments under the command of the earls of Crawford and Loudon, who waded breast deep through the river. The English horse, who were drawn up on the flat grounds near the Tyne, stood for some time exposed to the fire of nine pieces of ordnance, with which Leslie covered the passage of his men, but were at last broken and disordered; and as more Scots successively passed the river, the rout became irretrievable, and the main body of the infantry retreated in disorder towards Newcastle, by Ryton and Stella Haugh, whilst Sir John Digby, Commissary Wilmot, and O'Niell, an Irish officer, who endeavoured to cover the retreat with the horse, were surrounded and made prisoners by Leslie, who treated them and the whole of the prisoners with the greatest honour, and soon after permitted them to rejoin the king's forces. The panic inspired by the victory of the Scots was excessive and seems to have infected the English commanders as well as the soldiers. In a council of war held at Newcastle at twelve o'clock the night after the defeat, it was determined that the place was untenable, and next morning Lord Conway marched to Durham, and from thence to Northallerton, leaving Newcastle, and all the royal stores and magazines collected there, open to the enemy. The occupation of Newcastle which the Scots entered the day after their victory at Newburn, gave them, in fact, military possession both of Durham and Northumberland; and the people panic-struck, and deserted by the regular troops, seemed to have offered no further opposition; but to have merely considered how to make the best terms with the conquerors. "At this time (says Rushworth), Newcastle and the coal mines, that had wont to employ 10,000 people all the year long, some working under-ground, some above, and others upon the water in keels or lighters, now not a man to be seen, not a coal wrought, all absconding, being possessed with a fear that the Scots would give no quarter; 400 ships using to be there at a time in the river, not a ship durst come in; an hundred and odd coming

to the mouth of the haven the day after the fight, and hearing the Scots had possessed Newcastle, returned all empty, and tradesmen in the town for some days kept their shops shut; many families gone, leaving their goods to the mercy of the Scots, who possessed themselves of such corn, cheese, beer, &c., as they found, giving the owners thereof, or some in their stead, some money in hand and security in writing for the rest, to be paid at four or six months' end, in money or corn; and if they refuse, said the Scots, such is the necessity of their army that they must take it without security rather than starve. As for the city of Durham it became a most depopulated place; not one shop for four days after the fight, open; not one house in ten that had either man, woman, or child, in it; not one bit of bread to be got for money, for the king's army had eat and drank all in their march into Yorkshire; the country people durst not come to market, which made that city in a sad condition for want of food." After the defeat of the royal troops at Newburn, the bishop of Durham fled to his castle at Stockton, and from thence retired to York and London. The castle remained for some time in the possession of the royalists. August 30, the Scots entered Durham. The earl of Strafford issued an order from Darlington to cause all such quantities of butter, bread, cheese, and milk, as could be possibly furnished, to be brought into Darlington by four o'clock the next day for victualling his majesty's army; to break or bury all the upper mill-stones, and to remove the goods, and drive the cattle before the approach of the Scots. In September the inhabitants of the counties of Durham and Northumberland, petitioned the king to relieve them from the heavy and distressing levies of the Scots, who compelled the former to pay them £350, and the latter £300 per day, besides furnishing them with great quantities of hay and straw. Sir Thomas Riddell, knt., of Gateshead, also petitioned his majesty on account of the great destruction of his property by the Scots, "whereby your petitioner and his posterity are like to be ruined and undone.

1641 (*August*).—The Scottish army having received £60,000 for disbanding, quitted Newcastle. They were to pass over the Tweed before the 25th of the same month. King Charles I. passed through Newcastle on the 10th of August on his way post to Scotland. Mention occurs of his majesty's return by the same route on the 19th of November following.

1642 (*June 29*).—The king appointed William, earl of Newcastle, to be governor of that town. The earl sent out his warrants from Newcastle into the county of Durham, commanding 600 foot and 100 horse from the train-band of Durham, to come into that town. He also deputed 300 men to South Shields to make fortifications and trenches, taking along with them six pieces of ordnance. Tynemouth castle was also put into a posture of defence.

Aug. 19.—The same year, the mayor and common council of Newcastle, sent the king a most loyal address, accompanied with the loan of £700.

1642 (*Aug. 22*).—Sir Robert Heath, *knt.* held the last assize at Durham, under the royal commission; after that, all legal process within the county was discontinued, and no sheriff was appointed till 1646. The first gaol delivery after this interval was before Mark Shaftoe, *Esq.* April 12, 1647, when six criminals were executed. John Wastell, of Scorton, *Esq.* delivered the gaol by commission in July, 1648, when nine criminals were executed.

1642 (*Sep. 21*).—It was resolved upon the question by the house of commons, that Sir Nicholas Cole, mayor of Newcastle, Sir Thomas Riddell the younger, Sir Alexander Davison, Sir John Marley, and Mr. Thomas Lyddell, of that town, should be forthwith sent for as delinquents, by the serjeants at arms.

Oct. 13.—A small vessel arrived at Newcastle, with arms for 1,000 men, and ten thousand pounds in specie.

Oct. 16.—The plague raged in Gateshead; a cess was collected for the use of the infected poor.

Oct. 20.—Sir John Marley was chosen mayor of Newcastle by a mandamus from the king.

November.—The earl of Newcastle formed the counties of Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland, Westmorland, and the town of Newcastle, into an association for the king's service.

1643 (*Oct. 27*).—William Cavendish, earl of Newcastle, was advanced to the dignity of Marquis of that place.

1644 (*Jan. 15*).—The Scots army destined for the assistance of parliament crossed the Tweed in the depth of a severe winter. Their whole force amounted to 18,000 foot, and 3,000 horse, commanded by David Leslie, before whom Sir Thomas Glenham, retreated with very inferior forces to Newcastle. On receiving the first propositions from the Scots commissioners, dated from Berwick, Jan. 20, the officers of the royal army and the gentry of Northumberland met at Alnwick on the 22d. The Yorkshire gentlemen voted for driving the country before the invaders, whilst the Northumbrians were very naturally averse to seeing their estates laid waste, and proposed to return a conciliatory answer. All agreed that it was impossible to meet the Scots in the field, yet it was resolved with sixteen troops of horse, two regiments of foot, and several pieces of ordnance, that they would endeavour to defend the bridge, but this resolution, as well as a subsequent determination to cut down Felton bridge, and contest the passage of the Coquet, proved equally abortive, and the Scots experienced no serious opposition till they arrived under the walls of Newcastle. General Leslie came before the town on the 3d of February, and summoned the place the same day. The principal inhabitants returned a resolute answer, and in the evening set fire to Sandgate, a street on the east side of the town and without the walls, to prevent the enemy from making their advances under cover. The suburbs continued burning all Sunday and Monday. Early on Monday morning, Sir Marmaduke Langdale and Colonel Fenwick, sallied out of Newcastle, and surprised and routed two regiments of Scots horse, quartered at Corbridge; Colonel Brandling, who

had been ordered to cross the Tyne lower down, and to attack the Scots in the rear, fell in with the front of the retreating enemy, and spurring forward before his troop within pistol shot of the Scots, a Scots lieutenant, named Elliott, rode out of the ranks to meet him. After exchanging pistol shots, whilst both were wheeling round to draw their swords, Brandling's horse stumbled and fell so near his antagonist, that the Scotsman pulled him off his saddle by main force, and made him prisoner, which so discouraged his men, that they immediately fled, and were pursued by the Scots with some loss. On the 6th, Leslie brought his heavy ordnance by sea to Blythanook, from whence they were dragged up to the camp. The Scots remained before Newcastle till the 22d of February, without gaining any material advantage, and determining to waste no more time before the place, they left only six regiments of foot and some troops of horse, on the north side of the town to observe the garrison, and marched on that day with the gross of the army to Heddon-on-the-Wall, where they lay all night in the open field. The next day, they quartered along the Tyne from Ovingham to Corbridge, where three English regiments of horse faced them all day, but drew off in the night, leaving behind them only a Scots Major Agnew, Colonel Fenwick's prisoner, to preserve Fenwick's house, near Heddon, from plunder. The next day, February 28, the whole Scots army crossed the Tyne, without opposition, at the three several fords of Ovingham, Bywell, and Eltringham, and quartered at night in the villages on the south side of the river. The next day, the Scots passed the Derwent at Ebchester, their foot crossing the river, which is both deep and rapid, in single files over a bridge of trees, and the whole army passing the night in the field. The next day, Friday, they lay within a mile of Chester. On Saturday, they crossed the Wear, at the new bridge, near Lumley, rested on Sunday at Herrington, and on Monday the 4th of March, entered Sunderland. On the 6th, the marquis of Newcastle, with the Yorkshire horse, under Sir Charles Lucas, drew out his forces within three miles to the north of Sunderland, and obliged the Scots to draw out their troops and lie in the field. The next day, the marquis drew up again upon Boldon hills, and the Scots again faced him till night; but the nature of the ground which was intersected with hedges and deep trenches, prevented either party from hazarding an attack. On the 8th, the light parties skirmished with each other, but the marquis being unable to draw the Scots from their position, marched towards Durham, with the view of streightening the enemy's quarters, and preventing their foraging in the country. The Scots in Sunderland, were at this time extremely distressed for provisions; of five barks laden with supplies from Scotland, three were cast away, and the others were driven into the Tyne, where they were seized by the marquis. On the 13th the Scots, with a view of obtaining fresh quarters and forage, left a garrison of two regiments in Sunderland, and moved with the rest of their forces towards Durham, but finding the country nearly stripped of cattle and provisions by the marquis of

Newcastle, and unwilling to leave Sunderland so slenderly garrisoned at a distance, they returned along the north side of the river, and quartered betwixt the Wear and the Tyne, near South Shields. On the 15th, the Scots gave a hot assault to the fort at South Shields, but were gallantly beat off by Captain Chapman. On the 19th, the army observed a solemn fast, and on the next day, the fort at South Shields was carried by storm with the loss of nine men. The same day, Ballantyne, a Scots officer, surprised a party of the marquis's horse in Chester-le-Street, and brought off 40 prisoners with their horses and arms. On the 23d, the marquis marched from Durham to Chester, and on Sunday, March the 24th, the royal troops drew up on the high grounds above Hilton, and the Scots faced them all day on the heights nearer the sea, and towards night a distant cannonade was exchanged betwixt the two armies, and some parties of musketry endeavoured to drive each other from the hedges. The countersign given by the marquis was "*Now or never*;" by the Scots, "*The Lord of hosts is with us.*" The troops continued to face each other during the following day, when the marquis seeing no possibility of bringing the Scots to engage, retired again towards Durham; a party of Scots pursued and disordered a part of his rear, but were repulsed by Lucas's brigade. On the retreat of the marquis, the Scots extended their quarters to Easington, where they lay till the 8th of April, and then marched to Quarrington Hill. The disasters of the royal party in Yorkshire, occasioned the recal of the marquis from the north. On the 13th of April, having drawn such troops as could be spared out of Newcastle and Lumley Castle, (which appears to have been garrisoned for the king), he marched from Durham to Auckland, and from thence, the next day, to Barnardcastle and Piersebridge. At the same time, Leslie broke up his camp at Quarrington, and moved to Ferryhill, and next day to Darlington, where his horse came up with the rear of the marquis's army, and made some prisoners. The marquis entered York on the 19th of April, and on the 20th Leslie joined the parliament forces, under Fairfax, at Tadcaster. The fatal battle of Marston moor, on the 2d of July, completed the ruin of the king's affairs in the north, and was soon followed by the surrender of York; and Newcastle, the last bulwark of the royal cause in the north, was very closely besieged on the 13th of Aug. The Scots, after the town had made a spirited resistance of about ten weeks, began, October 19, to make a most violent firing from their several batteries, upon the town wall, and several regiments were drawn up, standing to their arms, while the breaches were in readiness and the mines sprung. About three o'clock in the afternoon, the town garrison by their counter-mines had very nearly approached some chambers where the gun-powder was lodged for blowing up the walls, which being signified to General Leven, he ordered that fire should be given to those two mines endangered, and afterwards to maintain the breaches carefully, whilst a gallant assault should be made from all quarters. A little after, the day falling, and the breaches being made, though not so large and

passable as was needful, the rest of the mines were fired, and the regiments advanced all at once towards the breaches and those places of the wall which were opened by the mines. In this attempt, however, they were excellently entertained by the besieged, who left nothing unessayed to repel the fury of the assault. They played incessantly from the castle upon the breaches and flanking towers of the walls with scattered shot, and the Scots suffered a considerable loss of soldiers and officers of quality; yet still they pressed on; and, after two hours' desperate dispute upon the breaches, forced their first entry at the mine, sprung on the west side of the town, near the White Friar Tower.* Then the horse in the town gave them three brave charges, which they stoutly sustained, and kept their ground till the reserve of that post came to assist them. The Scots now hastened to attack the gates of Newgate and Pilgrim Street gate, the former commanded by Captain Cuthbert Carr, and the latter by Captain George Errington, Lieutenant William Robson, and Ensign Thomas Swan. These with the men under their command had, during the siege, bravely defended these gates and killed many of the enemy, and although attacked from without and within, would not surrender until they were encompassed and overcome by numbers.† The Scots then marched for the relief of the rest of the breaches; and the soldiers of the garrison, seeing further resistance vain, forsook the walls; and the whole body almost of the army entering, they soon became masters of the town. Upon their first entry the mayor, Sir John Marley, Lodowick Lindsey, Earl Crawford, the Lord Maxwell, Dr. Wishart, and others, that had been most resolute for holding out the town, betook themselves to the castle. October 20 (Sunday), General Leven entered the town, when he went to church with his chief officers to return thanks to God for their success. The next day, Sir John Marley, the mayor, wrote a spirited letter to general Leven, from the castle, to which he had retreated, and which he owned could not hold out long. In this he hinted at the particular

* This portion of the town wall bounds, on the west, the garden ground of Isaac Cookson, sen. Esq., who shewed me, in 1824, where the breach had been repaired; this is quite evident from the new portion being considerably within the face of the old wall in the inside.

† As these walls were of such importance to Newcastle during this siege, it may here be necessary to give their origin from Leland and a MS. in the Cotton library.—“In the reign of Edward I. a very rich citizen of Newcastle was carried off from that town into Scotland, and being at last ransomed, he began to enclose Newcastle with a very firm wall, and the rest of the inhabitants following his example, he finished the undertaking in the reign of Edward III. As soon as they were completed the town was divided into 24 wards, according to the number of gates and round towers upon them. These walls had seven tremendous gates and seventeen round towers, between every one of which were for the most part, two watch towers made square, with the effiges of men cut in stone upon the tops of them as though they were watching.” There is a tradition that these walls were built with stones wrought out of quarries in the ravine called Cat Dene, near Bill Quay, on the south side of the river Tyne, below Newcastle.

motives of his loyalty, and begged for liberty to withdraw to some neighbouring garrison of the king; but the incensed general would allow no terms, and insisted upon a general surrender. October 22, Sir John Marley,* with his brave associates, came forth of the castle, and surrendered themselves prisoners to the Scottish army. The gallant mayor and governor was almost torn in pieces by the mob on this occasion, and appears to have been persecuted afterwards with a spirit of revenge unbecoming generous conquerors. Thus was the town taken from the king, after an obstinate and gallant defence, and may well assume the motto bestowed upon it, "FORTITER DEFENDIT TRIUMPHANS." The Scots, after the capture, are said to have rifled the town's hutch, and destroyed most of the evidences and deeds belonging to the corporation. During the siege General Leven, with the force sunder him, appears to have been quartered at Elswick, a village about a mile west of Newcastle; while the earl of Calendar, with the division of the army under him, was stationed at Gateshead, on the bridge, and at the glass-houses, below which he had thrown a bridge of boats across the river. The round tower in the Castle Garth, called the Half-moon battery (on the site of which is built the New County Courts), was by Sir John Marley, made use of to secure the river and the Quayside, against the Scots; and the other castle, which was very ruinous, he put into good repair; on both of which he placed heavy ordnance, to beat off those guns which the Scots had laid upon the banks of Gateshead, against the town; and this he managed bravely for a long time.

It appears that the Scots, during the siege of Newcastle, had centries on the small island in the river Tyne, called "*The King's Meadows*," as I find by the following entry in the burial register of Whickham church:—"A man that was shot bii the Scottish centres in the meadowes as he was comeing up the water in a boate, 3d September, 1644."

The following also occurs in the same book of mortality:—"Captaine John Cunninghame, a Scot, 22d October, 1644."

There is a tradition, that during the siege of the town, the general of the Scottish army threatened Sir John Marley, that if the town was not delivered up, they would direct their cannon so as to demolish the beautiful steeple of St. Nicholas. The mayor instantly ordered the chief of the Scottish prisoners to be taken to the top of the tower, below the lantern, and returned him an answer, that if that structure fell it should not fall alone, as their countrymen were placed in it with a view either to preserve it from ruin, or be destroyed with it; this had the desired effect.

St. Andrew's church, received so much damage during the siege, that no service was performed therein for a year afterwards, as is proved by the parish register:—"1645.—There was no child

* There is a good portrait of this royalist, and of his son, in the possession of Mrs. Peareth, of Newcastle. The Marley and Peareth families had inter-married.

bapt'd in this parish for 1 yeares time after the town was taken, nor sarmon in this church for 1 yeares time."

1644 (*Oct. 27*).—Tynemouth castle was besieged by General Leven and the Scots army, to whom it surrendered, when thirty-eight pieces of ordnance, besides great store of arms, ammunition, and provisions, fell into their hands. During the siege, it is said, that the garrison had suffered so much by the plague, that the chief commanders had fled out of it.

1645 (*April 14*).—The Hon. Sir William Armyne, knt. and bart., Richard Barwies, and Robert Fenwick, Esqrs., commissioners from the parliament and resident at Newcastle, were complimented each with the personal freedom of that corporation,

September 27.—This year the common council of Newcastle, made an order to disfranchise the earl of Newcastle, who was charged with possessing himself thereof by force of arms, and altering its ancient and lawful government, and imprisoning divers of his majesty's good subjects, and plundering and taking away their estates. He had been before this time declared a traitor by the lords and commons. The cause assigned for his disfranchisement is a curious one:—"As a meanes to expiate and appease the great wrath of God, which yet hanges over this poor and miserable towne."

The plague made great havock in Darlington and its neighbourhood. It had also visited the town of Egglecliffe, and it raged in Gateshead, the poor infected people were removed to huts erected on the common at Bensham. It appears to have been in Newcastle in the beginning of October this year.

It is said when the plague was at Newcastle, the inhabitants sent for the *Lee-penny*, and gave a bond for a large sum in trust for the loan; and they thought it did so much good that they offered to pay the money, and keep the *Lee-penny*; but the proprietor would not part with it. A copy of this bond is very well attested to have been among the papers of the family of Lee. This curious piece of antiquity, called the *Lee-penny*, is a stone of a dark red colour and triangular shape, and its size about half an inch each side. It is set in a piece of silver coin, which, though much defaced, by some letters still remaining, is supposed to be a shilling of Edward I., the cross being very plain as it is on his shillings. It has been by tradition in the Lee family since about the year 1320; that is a little after the death of King Robert Bruce. This stone is said to have many virtues; that it cures all diseases in men and cattle, and the bite of a mad dog both in man and beast. It is used by dipping the stone in water, which is given to the diseased cattle to drink and the person who has been bit, and the wound or part affected are washed with the water. Many cures are said to have been performed by it; and the people came from all parts of Scotland, and even as far up in England as Yorkshire, to get the water in which the stone had been dipped.

1646 (*May 13*).—The unfortunate King Charles I., having fled from Oxford, which was then besieged by the parliament forces,

threw himself into the protection of the Scottish army, at Newark upon Trent. They conducted the royal fugitive from thence to Newcastle upon Tyne, into which town he made a public entry on the above day. A lane of muskets and pikes being by order of Sir James Lumsdale, governor of Newcastle, made from Gateshead, all along the streets to the general's quarters, where his majesty took up his lodging. Upon his majesty's entry into Newcastle, he was saluted with bonfires and ringing of bells, drums and trumpets, and peals of ordnance, but guarded by 300 of the Scottish horsemen, those nearest to him bareheaded. The king was no where treated with more honour than at Newcastle, as himself confessed, both he and his train having liberty to go abroad and play at *goff* in the Shield Field, without the walls. His majesty is said to have lodged at the house, now the property and residence of Major George Anderson, a room in which retained the name of the king's bed chamber. In this stood a bed of a very antiquated fashion, said to have been the identical one upon which the unfortunate monarch had passed several anxious nights; this was preserved, until an incurious domestic removed and sold it as lumber, whilst the present proprietor, who is passionately fond of the antique, was abroad on his travels. Every exertion was used to recover this ancient and stately bed, but without effect. While the king was here, his coachman died, as appears by the following entry in St. Andrew's register:—"December 6, 1646.—Hugh Brown, buried the 6 day, in the church, the king's kouchman," i. e. coachman. There is a popular tradition that the king attempted his escape from this house by the passage of Lort Burn, which runs through the centre of the town, and that he had got down as far as the middle of the Side, where he was caught in his attempt to force the iron grate at its outlet. A ship was said to have been in readiness to receive his majesty. In consequence of the above attempt at escape, a guard of soldiers was placed at the door of his majesty's chambers, both within and without, that deprived him not only of his former liberty, but destroyed also his future quiet and repose. That the king meditated an escape, receives confirmation from the following, quoted by Chambers, in his *History of the Rebellions in Scotland*, from a *Memoir of the Sutherland family*. "About the middle of December, Robert Leslie, brother to Lieutenant-general Leslie, came from the king out of Newcastle, with letters and a private commission to the marquiss of Huntley, shewing that his majesty had a mind to free himself from the Scots armie at Newcastle; and, if he might escape, he would come to him in some part of the north of Scotland; and, therefore, desired him to have in readiness what forces he could make." In 1647, an agreement having been made between the parliament of England and the Scottish army, that the former should have possession of the king's person, and that the latter, on the receipt of £200,000. should quit the kingdom of England; commissioners were deputed from London to receive the king, and convey him from Newcastle. On the 28th of January the Scottish army having received the

price of the king in six and thirty covered waggons, delivered his person to the English commissioners, and immediately returned to their own country, where they were disbanded. The commissioners with his majesty set out from Newcastle on the 3d of February. A little after the king's coming to Newcastle, a Scots minister preached boldly before him; and, after reprovng him to his face with his misgovernment, called for the 52d Psalm, which begins,

“ Why dost thou, tyrant, boast thyself,
Thy wicked works to praise.”

Whereupon his majesty stood up and called for the 56th Psalm, which begins,

“ Have mercy, Lord, on me I pray,
For men would me devour.”

The good natured audience, in pity to fallen majesty, shewed greater deference to the king than to the minister, and sung the psalm which the latter had called for.

1646.—The revenues of the see of Durham, were taken from Bishop Morton, who had been accused of high treason by the house of commons, the see was dissolved, and the bishop's lands sold for the use of the commonwealth. On the restoration of King Charles II., the see was restored, when John Cosin, S.T. P. was elected to the bishopric November 2, 1660.

1647 (*July 26*).—An agreement occurs between the corporation of Newcastle and Mr. William Grey, concerning the water to be conveyed from his conduit in Pandon Bank to Sandgate. This Mr. William Grey, is supposed to be the author of the “*Chorographia*,” which was printed at Newcastle by S(tephen) B(ulkeley) in 1649, and is the most early printed account of that most ancient town. It was reprinted at Newcastle in 1813, and 1818, the original copies having become extremely rare.

The parish register of Whickham, contains frequently recurring traces of the plague having visited that place between the years 1610 and 1647. During these visitations, the people lived in lodges or huts upon Whickham fell. Cromwell's army, or some considerable part of it, lay at Whickham, on their march towards Scotland, in 1648.

1648 (*March 15*).—The company of barbers-chirurgeons petitioned the common council of Newcastle, for a grant of part of the Manors, whereon to build themselves a meeting-house. The statues in front of this building were placed there in 1710; John Shaw and Robert Golightly, stewards. This hall was rebuilt in the year 1730.

April 25.—There was an order of the commons for the sum of £5,000. to be forthwith raised and advanced, to be employed in repairing and fortifying the town of Newcastle and Tynemouth castle, the former having suffered so much during the siege by the Scots.

May 5.—The town of Berwick was surpris'd for King Charles I., by Sir Marmaduke Langdale.

1648 (*May 15*).—The common council of Newcastle, made an order to put the town into a posture of defence; they had before undertaken the work of Shield Field fort, an outwork, as a testimony of their love and due respect to the parliament.

The following is extracted from the burial register of St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle :—"1648, July 30.—George Bruwell, a souldier, executed for flying from his collors to the einime. Buried the thirty of this instant."

August 1.—By an extraordinary storm of wind and rain, two of the best collieries on the river Wear were drowned.

The West-gate at Newcastle was used for a prison, as appears by the following extract :—"On Monday night last, in the time of the storm, all that were in West-gate, in the town of Newcastle, to the number of seventeen of the prisoners, lately taken in Northumberland, escaped away. Having had friends come to visit them several times, divers ropes were brought in to them, which was not known till they were gone. In the dark of the night, when the storm was violent, blew hard, and much rain, by the ropes let themselves down by a privy." This happened about the beginning of August, 1648." It appears that six of the chief of the prisoners, that were in Tynemouth castle, escaped at the same time, letting themselves down through a privy, built on the north side of the castle, with sheets sewed together. Sir Arthur Haslerigg, was governor of Tynemouth castle. He was at the same time governor of Newcastle. Colonel Lilburn, his deputy, in the government of Tynemouth castle, having revolted and declared for the king, he stormed the said castle and put all that were therein to the sword. Lilburn's head was cut off on this occasion and set upon a pole. This event of regaining Tynemouth castle by the parliament happened August 11, 1648.

This year, Raby castle was besieged by the Royalists, as appears by the following entry in Staindrop parish register. "August 27, 1648.—William Joplin, a souldier slaine at the seidge of Raby castle, was buried in the church. Memorandum—Many souldiers slaine before Raby castle, which were buried in the Parke and not registered."

About the beginning of September, Lieutenant-general Cromwell passed through Newcastle, in pursuit of the royalists.

October 2.—A violent affray happened at Newcastle, at the annual election of the officers of the corporation, as appears from the following :—"Whereas on the 2d of October last, Thomas Bonner, Esq. mayor elected, coming from the Spittle to go to his dwelling house* upon the Sandhill, the sergeants carrying torches lighted in their hands, one Edmund Marshall threw a long stick at the said lighted torches, and struck divers of them out; and it being dark, stones, &c. were flung," &c. &c.

October 19.—About the middle of this month, Cromwell and the army under him returned to Newcastle, after the taking of Berwick;

* Afterwards the well known Katy's Coffee-house.

they stayed three days at the town, partly to give the army a little rest, and also to give time for the train to get up to them. They are said to "have been received there with very great acknowledgements of love." On the above day, they were sumptuously feasted by the new mayor (Thomas Bonner, Esq.), and the next day they reached Durham. October 24, Oliver Cromwell came into Barnardcastle. There went out to meet him several gentlemen, who conducted him to his lodgings, and presented him with burnt wine and short cakes.

1648 (*Nov. 24*).—There was presented to his excellency Lord Fairfax, lord general, at Windsor, a most remarkable petition, and representation of the officers and soldiers of the garrisons of Newcastle and Hartlepool, Holy Island, and of several officers of Berwick, wherein they charged the king with being "the occasion of a seven years' unnatural and bloody war by deserting his parliament, and the principal author, contriver, abettor, and manager, of all the bloodshed, massacres, devastations, and whatever ruins have befallen, not only this kingdom, but also that of Ireland," declaring "that all other endeavours are to little purpose while the grand delinquent is untouched, as being not an acceptable sacrifice to the justice of God, to offer him ought else, while the Agag is spared"†

1648.—This year, Berwick church was commenced building. It was finished in 1652, under the direction of colonel George Fenwicke, of Brenkburne, during the time of the long parliament. This building cost £1,400. ; the want of a spire gives it rather a singular appearance when viewed from without. The cemetery of this church is literally crowded with tomb-stones. Colonel Fenwicke, who was governor of Berwick, died March 15, 1656.

This year, a set of march or boulder stones were placed round Newcastle.

1649 (*March 26*).—Mention occurs of a petition in the common council books* of Newcastle of this date, and signed, no doubt, by the inhabitants, concerning witches, the purport of which appears, from what followed, to have been to cause all such persons as were suspected of that crime to be apprehended and brought to trial. In consequence of this, the magistrates sent two of their sergeants, viz. —Thomas Shevell and Cuthbert Nicholson, into Scotland, to agree with a Scotchman, who pretended knowledge to find out witches, by pricking them with pins, to come to Newcastle, where he should try such who should be brought to him, and to have twenty shillings a piece, for all he should condemn as witches, and free passage thither and back again. When the sergeants had brought the said witch-finder on horseback to town, the magistrates sent their bell-man through the town, ringing his bell and crying, all people that would bring in any complaint against any woman for a witch, they should be sent for, and tried by the person

* "March 26, 1649.—Witches.—The petition concerning witches was read, and ordered that thanks be returned to the petitioners, and the common-council will contribute their best assistance therein."

appointed. Thirty women were brought into the town-hall, and stripped, and then openly had pins thrust into their bodies, and most of them were found guilty. The said reputed witch-finder acquainted Lieutenant-colonel Paul Hobson, deputy governor of Newcastle, that he knew women whether they were witches or no by their looks; and when the said person was searching of a personable and good-like woman, the said colonel replied, and said, surely this woman is none, and need not be tried, but the Scotchman said she was, and, therefore, he would try her; and presently, in the sight of all the people, laid her body naked to the waist, with her cloathes over her head, by which fright and shame all her blood contracted into one part of her body, and then he ran a pin into her thigh, and then suddenly let her cloathes fall, and then demanded whether she had nothing of his in her body, but did not bleed? but she being amazed, replied little; then he put his hands up her cloathes and pulled out the pin, and set her aside as a guilty person, and child of the devil, and fell to try others, whom he made guilty. Lieutenant-colonel Hobson, perceiving the alteration of the aforesaid woman, by her blood settling in her right parts, caused that woman to be brought again, and her cloathes pulled up to her thigh, and required the Scot to run the pin into the same place, and then it gushed out of blood, and the said Scot cleared her, and said she was not a child of the devil. The witch-finder set aside twenty-seven out of the thirty suspected persons, and in consequence fourteen witches and one wizzard belonging to Newcastle were executed on the town moor, as is stated in the following extract, from the register of the parochial chapelry of St. Andrew's, in Newcastle:—"1750, 21st August.—Thes partes her under named, wer executed in the town mor, for wiches.—Mathew Boumer, Isabell Brown, Margrit Maddeson, Ann Watson, Ellenor Henderson, Ellenor Rogers, Ellsabeth Dobson, Mrs. Ellsabeth Anderson, Jane Hunter, Jane Koupling, Margrit Brown, Margrit Moffit, Kattren Welsh, Aylles Hume, and Mary Pootes." Then follow the names of the persons executed for stealing, who were a gang of moss-troopers, at the close of which occurs, "Jane Martin, for a wich, the myller's wife of Chattim." See a print of this horrid execution in "Gardiner's England's Grievance Discovered."*

So soon as the witch-finder had done in Newcastle and received his wages, he went into Northumberland, to try women there, where he got of some three pounds a piece; but Henry Ogle, Esq. laid hold on him and required bond of him, to answer the sessions, but he got away for Scotland, where he was apprehended and cast into prison, indicted, arraigned, and condemned, for such like

* At the village of Chirton, near North Shields, Mr. Gardiner wrote that severe stricture on the coal trade, intituled "England's Grievance Discovered, in Relation to the Coal Trade," which was printed in London in 1655. The original copies of this work having become *extremely rare*, it was reprinted at Newcastle in 1796, by Messrs. Akenheads; this too has become scarce.

villainy exercised in Scotland, and upon the gallows he confessed he had been the death of above 220 women in England and Scotland, for the gain of twenty shillings a-piece.

1649.—The following entry occurs in Gateshead parish books : " Paid at M^{rs} Watson's, when the justices sate to examine the witches 3s. 4d. ; for a grave for a witch 6d. ; for trying the witches £1. 5s."

July 30.—At a private guild holden at Berwick, before the right worshipful, Andrew Crispe, esq. mayor, Mr. Stephen Jackson, alderman, and the rest of guild brethren, it was " ordered according to the guild's desire, that the man which tryeth the witches in Scotland shall be sent for, and satisfaction to be given him by the towne in defraying his charges, and in coming hither, and that the towne shall engage that no violence be offered him by any persons within the towne."

May 2.—Durham castle was sold to Thomas Andrews, lord mayor of London, for £1267. 10d., who so miserably defaced a great part of it, that it was some time before it could be made habitable for Bishop Cosin, who almost renovated it by making considerable alterations and additions.

September 14.—Sir Arthur Haslerigg, governor of the garrison of Newcastle, was admitted and sworn a free-burgess of that corporation.



Two ancient punishments of Newcastle, inflicted on disturbers of the peace, appear as being practised about this time. A common drunkard was led through the streets as a spectacle of contempt, covered with a large barrel, called a "*Newcastle Cloak*," one end being out and the other having a hole made through it, sufficient for the offender to pass his head through, by which means the vessel rested on his shoulders. The scold wore an iron engine called "*the branks*," in the form of a crown, it covered the head,

but left the face exposed; and having a tongue of iron which went into the mouth, constrained silence from the most violent brawler. It is to be presumed that there is no longer any occasion for the latter, but why has the former been laid aside? The foregoing is a representation of Robert Sharp, an officer of the corporation, leading Ann Bidlestone, through the town with *the branks* on her head, and the other a drunkard with the *Newcastle cloak*, on his shoulders. The branks are still preserved in the town's court.

1650 (*July 14*).—Oliver Cromwell, general of the parliament army, arrived at Durham, where he was met by Sir Arthur Haslerigg, governor of Newcastle, with colonel Pride and other officers, who attended him to that town on the day following. He was sumptuously entertained at that place by the governor; and, during his stay there was a fast kept, to implore God's blessing upon the army's undertaking, and a declaration was agreed upon to be dispersed in their march. Five companies, as a reinforcement, were drawn out of the garrison of that town on this occasion. July 25.—The militia of Northumberland and Durham were assembled by Sir Arthur Haslerigg, and great quantities of bread and other stores were sent from Newcastle to Oliver Cromwell, at Berwick. September 2, which was the day preceding that of the battle of Dunbar, Cromwell wrote a remarkable letter all with his own hand, and sent it from Scotland, to Sir Arthur Haslerigg, at Newcastle. After the fight at Dunbar, General Cromwell sent a great number of the prisoners taken on that occasion to Newcastle, recommending them to be treated with humanity. The following passages occur concerning these prisoners, in a letter from Sir Arthur Haslerigg, to the council of state, dated at Newcastle, October 31, 1650.—“When they came to Morpeth, the prisoners being put into a large walled garden, they eat up raw cabbages, leaves and roots, so many, as the very seed and labour at 4*d*. a day, was valued at £9. which cabbage (they having fasted, as they themselves said, near eight days) poisoned their bodies; for, as they were coming from thence to Newcastle, some died by the way-side. When they came to Newcastle, I put them into the greatest church in the town; and the next morning, when I sent them to Durham, about 140 were sick, and not able to march. Three died that night, and some fell down on their march from Newcastle to Durham, and died. On being told into the great cathedral church, they were counted to be no more than 3,000, although colonel Fenwick wrote me that there were 3,500.” Many fine tombs, &c. were defaced by the Scots prisoners while confined in Durham cathedral.

1651 (*March 8*).—The ministers of Newcastle write to Oliver Cromwell, complaining that captain Robert Everard was preaching arminian and socinian doctrines to their flocks (as well as to the garrison), and was encouraged in so doing by Lieutenant-colonel Mason (who commanded the garrison in colonel Fairfax's absence) and by captain Pimme. After proceeding in a very bitter strain, they say, “the townes people are induced, and the souldiers warned by beat of drum, frequently to attend his delusions.” This curious

epistle is signed by "Robert Jenison, Dr. of D.; Tho. Wolfull, Rich. Prideaux, Wm. Durant, Thomas Weld, Samuel Hammond, and Cuth. Sydenham."

1651 (*April 18*).—The corporation purchased the borough of Durham and Framwell-gate, of the parliamentary commissioners for £200.

1652 (*January*).—Frances Adamson, and —— Powle, were executed in the city of Durham, for witchcraft.

This year, the castle at Stockton having been surrendered to the parliament, it was ordered to be "sighted and dismantled," and so effectually was this executed, that not a stone remains as evidence of its former splendour. During the civil wars in the reign of Charles I., it was garrisoned for the king, but it was afterwards given up to the Scots, who surrendered it to the parliament.

1653 (*April 28*).—The people of Durham address Oliver Cromwell, the lord-general, and his council of officers.

July 5.—The county of Durham, which in consequence of its palatinate privileges, had hitherto never sent knights or burgesses to parliament, found representatives in Cromwell's three parliaments, viz. at the above period, Henry Davison, for the county. In 1654, *September 3*, Robert Lilburne, of Thicky, esq., and George Lilburne, of Sunderland, esq. In 1656, *September 17*, Thomas Lilburne, of Offerton, esq., and James Clavering, of Axwell, esq., Anthony Smith, alderman, represented the city of Durham in both the latter parliaments.

This year, Newcastle was first visited by George Fox, the well known founder of the religious sect called quakers.

1654 (*Jan. 11*).—The baptized churches of Northumberland, Yorkshire, and Derbyshire, address the lord-protector.

August 25.—At this time there was a meeting among the keelmen at Newcastle, for the increase of wages.

1655 (*July 20*).—A petition was ordered by the mayor, aldermen, and common-council of Newcastle, to be sent up to the Lord-protector Cromwell, concerning the prohibition of a market at North Shields.

The exchange and town court in Newcastle was built between this year and 1658. Robert Trollop, of York, mason, was the architect. He entered into articles to build it for £2,000. The articles of agreement are in the archives of the town. Bourne says, it cost upwards of £10,000. The original building, as to its form and model was of great beauty, and withal very sumptuous. It has undergone many external and internal alterations, especially in having its north front, in 1794, and its south front in 1809, new cased with freestone, and its roof covered with blue slate.

Robert Trollop, the architect of the exchange and town court, was, *Sep. 25*, 1657, presented with the franchise of the corporation of Newcastle, for his ingenuity, skill, and abilities. At the east end of Gateshead church-yard, stands a heavy square pile the lower part brick and the upper part stone, sometime ornamented with golden texts beneath the cornice, built by Robert Trollop for

the place of his interment. It is said there stood formerly a statue of the said Trollop, on the north side of it, pointing to the town court of Newcastle, and underneath the following lines:—

“ Here lies Robert Trollop,
 “ Who made yon stones roll up,
 “ When death took his soul up,
 “ His body filled this hole up.”

1656 (*Jan. 12*).—The churches of Newcastle and the neighbourhood address the lord-protector.

January 18.—There was an order of the common council of Newcastle to enfranchise Colonel Charles Howard, then resident in that town. He was one of the members of Cromwell's council, and major-general of the four northern counties.

August 1.—Died, in the city of Durham, John Hall, esq. a native of that place. He was born in August, 1627. In 1646, he was sent to St. John's college, in Cambridge, and in the same year, published “*Horæ Vacivæ, or Essays with some occasional considerations,*” with his picture before them, aged 19. The same year, he published his Poems, London, and with them the Second Book of Divine Poems. After remaining a year at Cambridge, he removed to Gray's Inn. In 1650, he was ordered by the council of state to attend General Cromwell into Scotland. About the same time Mr. Hall was called to the bar. Besides various political and other works, he published an account of the cruelties of the Dutch at Amboyna. He dedicated this volume to General Cromwell, and it was so eagerly read, that the States' ambassador demanded punishment on its author, but parliament took no notice of it. He also translated *Longinus' Height of Eloquence*, 8vo. 1652, and *Hierocles on the Golden Verses of Pythagoras*, published after his death by John Davies of Kidwelly, 8vo. 1657. Hall was the friend of Robert Hegge, another short lived genius, and a native of Durham—and of Davies of Kidwelly, who dedicates his first edition of the “*Rites and Monuments,*” to James Mickleton, esq., Hall's brother-in-law.

1657 (*May 15*).—A writ of privy seal for founding an university at Durham was signed by Oliver Cromwell, lord protector. This university, rather intended to be founded than actually settled, was soon suppressed. The original writ^x is preserved in the archives of the dean and chapter of Durham; it appears to have been suppressed on account of petitions against it from the universities of Oxford and Cambridge. It had been obtained by a petition of the city and county of Durham, county of Northumberland, and town and county of Newcastle upon Tyne. It is a singular fact that George Fox, the founder of the Quakers, who visited Newcastle a second time this year, has assumed to himself the consequence, and what he thought the merit of having been the means of suppressing this laudable institution:—“*We came to Durham,*” says he, “*where was a man come down from London, to set up a college there to make ministers of Christ as they said. I went with some others to*

^x and a copy of the statutes are

reason with the man, and to let him see, that to teach men Hebrew, Greek, and Latin, and the seven arts, which was all but the teachings of the natural man, was not the way for to make them ministers of Christ; for the languages began at Babel; and to the Greeks, that spake Greek as their mother-tongue, the cross of Christ was but foolishness; and to the Jews that spake Hebrew as their mother-tongue, Christ was a stumbling block, and as for the Romans who had the Latin and Italian, they persecuted the Christians; and Pilate, one of the Romans, set Hebrew, Greek, and Latin, a-top of Christ when he crucified him; and John the Divine, who preached the word that was in the beginning, said that the beast and the whore had power over tongues and languages, and they are as waters. Thus I told him he might see the whore and the beast have power over the tongues and the many languages which are in Babylon. Now, said I to the man, dost thou think to make ministers of Christ, by the natural confused languages which sprang from Babel, are admired in Babel, and set a-top of Christ by a persecutor? Oh no! So the Man confessed to many of these things, and when we had thus discoursed with him, he became very loving and tender, and after he had considered farther of it, he never set up his college." George Fox, in his journal, says, "That he came to Newcastle this year, but meeting with no encouragement, and finding," says he, "we could not have a publick meeting among them, we got a little meeting among friends and friendly people at the Gateside (Gateshead); where a meeting is continued at this day in the name of Jesus."

1657 (*May 29*).—Richard Brantingham of Seaton, aged 106 years, was buried at Stranton, in the county of Durham.

August 29.—Died at Eltham, colonel John Lilburne, and two days afterwards his body was brought to London, and buried in the Quakers' yard. He was the son of Richard Lilburne, and born at East Thicky, in the county of Durham, in the year 1618. Being a younger son he was bred a clothier, but abandoned his profession in 1636 and became assistant to Dr. Bastwick. Under his direction he went to Holland, and superintended the printing of the *Merry Liturgy*, for which and other presumed offences he was, on his return, pilloried, whipped, fined, and loaded with irons, by order of the tyrannical court which assembled in the star chamber. In 1641, he was released by parliament, and became a distinguished soldier, and, in 1644, he was advanced to the rank of lieutenant-colonel. His undaunted spirit in defence of liberty occasioned him many sufferings. From the confident and secret friend of Cromwell, he became his accuser and enemy, when the former began to violate the principles which he had flown to arms to support. Firm and unbending in his politics, he was twice tried for high treason, but acquitted by the juries, whose authority he boldly vindicated. "The jury," he observed, "by law are not only judges of the fact, but of the law also; and you that call yourselves judges of the law, are no more but Norman intruders;

and, in truth, if the jury please, are no more but *cyphers to pronounce their verdict*." After his second trial, he was ordered to leave the kingdom, but obtained permission to remain on his brother becoming security for his peaceable behaviour. Hume represents him as the "most turbulent, but most upright and courageous of human kind;" and Sir Henry Martin, as of such a contentious disposition, that "if there were none living but him, *John* would be against *Lilburne*, and *Lilburne* against *John*." His character has been diversely estimated.

1657 (*Sep. 7*).—The Hon. Sir Thomas Widdrington, speaker of the house of commons, and his son were complimented with the franchise of the corporation of Newcastle.

This year, a bowling green was made in part of the Forth, Newcastle. A tavern was also built, with a balcony projecting from the front, and a parapet wall, from whence the spectators could behold the bowlers. By an order of common council, a wall was built, and lime-trees, brought out of Holland, planted around it in 1680. It was an ancient custom for the mayor, aldermen, and sheriff of Newcastle, accompanied by a great number of persons, to proceed every year, at the feasts of Easter and Whitsuntide, to this place, with the mace, sword, and cap of maintenance, carried before them. The assembling of young people here at these seasons seems to be the remains of this ancient and simple custom, which has greatly fallen off within these few years.

1658 (*June 22*).—In one of the *vestry* books belonging to Gateshead church, is a copy of a letter dated Whitehall, as above, by which the twenty-four of Gateshead, because they were thought unfit to hold any public trust, and to have power of quelling profaneness and other crimes, was dissolved and a new one appointed in its stead, by his highness and council.

On the death of Oliver Cromwell, his son, Richard Cromwell, was proclaimed protector at Newcastle, from which town also he was complimented on his accession to a dignity which proved of short duration, by the mayor, aldermen, sheriff, and common-council.

1659 (*June 11*).—A fire broke out at Berwick, which destroyed 39 houses, many of them containing several families. It continued burning from seven in the morning till four in the afternoon, with the wind from the west and very tempestuous, so that all were very soon destroyed.

November.—General Lambert arrived at Newcastle, with a force of about 12,000 men, comprehending as was reported 7,000 of the chief of the cavalry. The soldiers of the garrison of Tynemouth castle having been drawn into a chapel, there to sign an engagement to support Lambert and his party, the roof fell in and killed a number of them. There appears to have been a number of quakers in Lambert's army in Newcastle, where they bargained for and sold horses, to be paid when such or such a steeple-house (*i. e.* church) was pulled down.

1659.—This year, the church at Tynemouth (North Shields) was begun to be rebuilt. It was consecrated by Bishop Cosin, July 5, 1668, by the name of Christ church.

1660 (*Jan. 1*).—General Monk with Lord Fairfax and other English friends passed the Tweed with six regiments of foot, and were followed the next day by four regiments of horse, in order to advance towards Lambert, who commanded superior forces in and about Newcastle, to oppose him. *January 6*, Monk arrived at Newcastle, on the road to which place he was met by great multitudes of the common people, and welcomed by loud acclamations: General Lambert appears to have quitted Newcastle about the time that General Monk began his march from Coldstream.

May 31.—The effects of Mrs. Blakeston, relict of John Blakeston, esq., a magistrate and member of Parliament for the town of Newcastle, and who was one of the regicides, were seized upon by the sheriff of Durham.

July 28.—This year, King Charles II. by his writ restored William Robson to the office of parish clerk of All Saints' church, Newcastle, from which he had been ejected for his loyalty, October 20, 1644.

August 8.—It appears by the common council books of Newcastle, that the earl of Newcastle, Sir John Marley, knt., sometime mayor; Sir George Baker, sometime recorder; Sir Nicholas Cole, knight and baronet; Francis Bowes, knt., sometime alderman; James Cole, esq., sometime sheriff; Henry Marley, merchant, sometime clerk of the chamber; Henry Brabant, merchant; Jonas Cudworth, draper; Thomas Carnes, slater; and Anthony Errington, sometime one of the serjeants at mace, were restored to their former freedoms of Newcastle.

September 7.—Algernon, earl of Northumberland, was constituted lord-lieutenant of the county of Northumberland.

Nov. 2.—The bishopric and county palatine and the dean and chapter of Durham were restored. Bishop Cosin, who was nominated on the above day to the see, built the noble palace of Auckland, to which he added the chapel with all its splendid interior decorations of books, plate, and ornaments, for the service of the altar. He put the castle of Durham into complete repair, and restored the bishop's house in Darlington from a state of entire dilapidation. At Durham he also rebuilt and augmented the endowment of Bishop Langley's hospital and schools on the Palace Green, and he built the bishop's library adjoining the exchequer, and stored it with books. In 1664, he was chiefly instrumental in procuring the rebuilding of the guild-hall or town-house at Durham, as well as in repairing the courts of justice, the exchequer, and the court of chancery.

Soon after the meeting of that parliament, which restored King Charles II., Sir Arthur Haslerigg, came to General Monk, and delivered up his two regiments, as also the governments of Berwick, Newcastle, and Tynemouth, which had been conferred upon him by the late powers, on condition of having his life and estate preserved, which were generously assured to him.

1660.—This year, the restoration of King Charles II. was celebrated at Durham with great demonstrations of joy.

It is related that, in the spring of this year, an unknown gentleman came to reside at Winlaton, near Newcastle, living very privately, and daily more and more inquisitive after news and every circumstance of the restoration. Upon understanding the passing of the act of indemnity, together with the exception of the murderers of King Charles I., he went into an adjoining wood and hanged himself.

1661 (*May 22*).—The solemn league and covenant was burnt in London and Westminster, and afterwards at all the other towns in England.

This year, the hospital at Houghton-le Spring, was built and endowed by George Lilburne, for the maintenance of three poor people for ever. In 1676, Mr. George Davenport, rector of that parish, gave by will £160. to purchase lands, for the maintenance of three other poor people, as appears by an inscription on the west end of the south wing of this building. William Sharp, M. A. a native of this parish, added £18 per annum to the revenues of the hospital.

The society of friends had a burial place at Cullercoats, near Tynemouth. From the registers of the society, it appears that Johanna, the daughter of George Linton, who died on the 20th of the 11th month, 1661, was the first interred here; the last was Zeph. Haddock, who died on the 29th of the 3d month, 1739, since which time it has been disused as a place of sepulture.

The following is extracted from the very well kept register book belonging to the society of friends, of North Shields:—“1661—George Linton of North Shields, dyed in North Shields, and, by the furry of the tymes, was by relations and souldiers caryed away from friends, and lyeth buried in the down end of Tinemouth kirk, the month and day not certain, but it was as 15 thought, in the XI or XII month.”

Bishop Cosin, by his letters patent, incorporated the drapers, tailors, mercers, hardware-men, coopers, and chandlers, in Gateshead, into a community, fellowship, and company.

1662 (*Sep. 5*).—Colonel Edward Villiers, governor of Tynemouth castle, was presented with a personal freedom of Newcastle.

October 9.—In a letter of this date, from Edward Arden to Miles Stapylton, esq., Durham, it is stated that “Sir Francis Anderson is elected mayor of Newcastle, which Sir John Marley was unwilling to, they sat up all night and Sir Francis carried it.”

This year, Roger Dobson of Hartlepool, issued tokens, bearing on the obverse, a stag or hart, being intended perhaps to denote the arms of Hartlepool, circumscribed, ROGER DOBSON, 1662, and on the reverse, in HARTLEPOOL, with R^DE in the centre, forming the initial letters of himself and his wife.

1663 (*Aug. 12*).—Oswald Rogers, master and mariner, who landed the marquis of Newcastle safe in England, was, at the request of the said marquis, admitted to a personal freedom of Newcastle.

This year, a free-school was founded at Stamfordham, in Northumberland, by sir Thomas Widdrington. It is well endowed.

1665 (*June 28*).—There is an order of the common-council of Newcastle, to prevent the spreading of the plague, by forbidding masters of ships to bring passengers or goods into their harbour, upon pain of being stayed or detained for 40 days, and sailors to come on shore on pain of imprisonment. The plague at this time raged in Gateshead and in Sunderland.

Sep. 29.—This year, Sir William Forster was admitted to a personal freedom of the corporation of Newcastle.

1666.—Only one Stockton tradesman, John Wells, issued tokens in the reign of Charles II. The obverse has the king's head with long hair, *à la cavalier*, crowned, GOD SAVE THE KING; reverse, JOHN WELLS.



1666.—The above is a representation of the arms of the borough of Gateshead, taken from the back of an old chair in the vestry of that church. The arms are in relief, and above them the letters L A. P B. I W. P T. being the initials of the names of Lancelot Ayer, Peter Bell, John Wolfe, and Peter Trumble, who were churchwardens in 1666, in which year this chair appears to have been made, as the following entry occurs in the parish books under this date "*Paid for a new chaire and covering a stooles for ye vestry £1. 2s.*" These circumstances are, I think sufficient proofs of the antiquity of this piece of furniture.

1667 (*June 27*).—The right hon. Henry, earl of Ogle, who had received his majesty's commission to be governor of Newcastle and was resident there, was admitted to his personal freedom of that corporation.

1668 (*Nov. 9*).—Joceline, earl of Northumberland, was constituted lord lieutenant of the county of Northumberland.

1668.—The mansion house at Capheaton, was built about this time by Sir John Swinburne, who was created a baronet in 1660, and died in 1706. In the beginning of the last century, a great number of Roman coins and vessels of silver were found near this seat by some workmen employed in making a hedge. The coins were all privately sold; as were also most of the vessels after breaking the bottoms out of some, and the ornaments and handles off others. They presented to Sir John Swinburne (the grandfather of the present baronet) one cup entire, weighing 26 ounces; the bottoms of three others; three handles adorned with beautiful figures in relief; part of another carved handle; a figure of Hercules and Antæus wrestling; and a figure of Neptune.

1669.—A stone was discovered at Benwell (the *Conderncum* of the Romans), on which was an inscription to commemorate a victory gained by the Romans over the northern Britons. The inscription was partly obliterated. Several other inscriptions have been found here, the most remarkable of which is a fine altar dedicated to Jupiter Dolichenus, a deity worshipped by miners. Coins of Trajan, Hadrian, and several other emperors, have been found here, also a great conduit made of hewn stones. In 1752, a hypocaustum, about 300 yards south west of the station was discovered. The fine urn in the library at Durham, was found in this place. The foundations of an exploratory tower were found opposite to the second mile stone. An iron railway was made through the north side of this station in 1810, which laid bare a part of its walls, and the foundations of several buildings.

The Glass-house bridge over the Ouseburn, east of Newcastle, was of wood until 1669, when it was built of stone by Thomas Wrangham, shipwright, on account of lands which the town let him. The passage, however, over it was very difficult and uneven till the year 1729, when it was made level and commodious both for horse and foot. The bridge higher up this burn called Shields road bridge, was also of wood until about the latter year. It was considerably widened about 1790.

1669.—The king granted letters patent to Edward Andrew, Esq. to build a pier and erect a lighthouse or lighthouses, and to cleanse the harbour of Sunderland.

This year, a trial came on at the Exchequer bar, by an order of his majesty Charles II. between the mayor and burgesses of Newcastle, and the dean and chapter of Durham, on the latter attempting to build a ballast quay at Jarrow-slake, without the license of the mayor and burgesses, and, after six hours evidence, a verdict was given for the mayor and burgesses.

1671.—The following companies were incorporated in Gateshead:—free-masons, corvers, stone-cutters, sculptors, brick-makers, tilers, bricklayers, glaziers, painter-stainers, founders, nailers, pewterers, mill-wrights, saddlers and bridlers, trunkmakers,*

* Robert Trollop, the architect of the Exchange, Newcastle, was of this company. A very curious letter in which Robert Trollop offers to bribe the the bishop's officer with a very good new trunk, remains in Gateshead vestry.

and distillers. Many of these companies are extinct. In 1810, sixteen freemen were allowed as claimants on the Fell, viz. :—Six drapers and ten bricklayers, and in 1814, December 9, nine fullers and dyers claimed on the borough lands.

1671.—The following occurs in Gateshead parish books;—"Paide for powder and match when the keelemen mutyned 2s."

1672 (*Oct. 7*).—His grace John, duke of Lauderdale, and lord president of his majesty's most honourable privy council of Scotland, and sole secretary of state for those kingdoms, was admitted to the freedom of the corporation of Newcastle.

December 17.—The king wrote a letter to the corporation of Newcastle, to elect James Aire, pilot of his majesty's good ship the *St. Michael*, a free burges of that town.

The Rev. James Smithson, vicar of Berwick, was this year tried and executed for the murder of his wife.

This year, Clifford's fort at the east end of North Shields, was built. There was anciently here a fort of baskets filled with sand and mortar, with a gun placed between each basket.

1673 (*Jan. 18*).—Thirty-nine ships were cast away on the coast of Northumberland. Sixteen belonged to Newcastle and Shields.

July 10.—An address was ordered by the mayor, recorder, aldermen, sheriff, and common council of Newcastle, to be presented to the king, on the discovery of a plot against his majesty's life, and that of James, duke of York.

The following entry occurs in the parish register of Hartlepool :—"October 5, 1673.—Thomas Smailes, was buried and crowned by a jury of 12 men, and John Harrison, of Seaton, was executed at Durham, for murdering Thomas Smailes."

Henry, earl of Ogle, was lord lieutenant of the county of Northumberland, and of the town and county of Newcastle, and governor of that town and port.

This year, on Rood-day, there were above four hundred red deer in Teesdale forest destroyed by a severe storm of snow.

1674 (*July 1*).—William Lilburne, Esq. was admitted to the freedom of the corporation of Newcastle.

This year, the bridge at Corbridge, was built on the old Roman foundations. Corbridge was anciently a borough and sent members to parliament, but on account of the expence of representation the privilege was disused.

1675 (*June 21*).—The first election of representatives for the county of Durham, took place. The candidates were John Tempest, of the Isle, Esq. 1034; Thomas Vane Esq. of Raby Castle, 856; and Sir James Clavering, of Axwell, bart., 747. The two first were elected. Mr. Vane died of the small-pox four days after his election, and was succeeded by his younger brother Christopher Vane, Esq. The election of members for the city was delayed by technical difficulties until 1678.

June 21.—The common council of Newcastle, on the petition of John Stobbs, an ingenious artisan, granted him a personal freedom of that corporation. He is represented as particularly skilful

in the making and tempering of steel; making water engines against the accidents of fire, and the like; making wind guns, speaking-trumpets, glazier's vices, and several mathematical instruments.

1675.—A dreadful pestilential disease called the "Jolly Rant," appears to have raged in Newcastle and the neighbourhood of that town; there died of it 924 persons.

1676.—About this time the corporation of Newcastle contributed £300 towards the erection of the present organ in St. Nicholas' church, in that town. They added a trumpet stop in 1699, and in 1710, paid £200 for finishing the back front, and cleaning and repairing the whole instrument. The swell was ordered by the common-council in 1749, and which it is supposed was added by Snetzler, the celebrated organ builder. About the year 1798, it was cleaned by Donaldson, of Newcastle, organ builder. On the 26th of July, 1814, the organ was taken down by Messrs. Wood, Small, and Company, of Edinburgh, who added a double diapason, and a set of foot pedals, and repaired the whole instrument. This cost the corporation £500. In September, 1824, the organ was again taken down, cleaned and tuned, which cost between £70. and £80.

At this time lived John Pigg, town's surveyor, for Newcastle. He was well known both to King Charles II. and the duke of York; and for his giddy singularities, noted not only through the county, but almost through the kingdom. He usually wore a high crowned hat, a strait coat, and would never ride, but walked the pace of any horse hundreds of miles on foot, with a quarter-staff fenced with an iron fork at one end. The king and duke of York, to whom he was often trotting, made themselves sport with him, as looking upon him to be a brainsick enthusiast. He was of so peculiar and odd a humour, that he would not only go to prison when he needed not, but conceitedly chose the vilest part of the prison for his apartment, where he continued a long while, when he might have had his liberty whenever he pleased. This Pigg died in a sty, in circumstances not unlike those who lay hands on themselves, or die crazy or distracted. He took down a stately cross which he called idolatry, that stood at the north end of the Barras bridge, before the chapel of St. James's, and built a curious stone pillar, inscribed with texts of Scripture, lately standing at the three-mile bridge, by the side of the Morpeth road, as a monument of his whimsical head, and which very deservedly bore the name of "PIGG'S FOLLY." The following extract from the books of the incorporated company of bricklayers of Newcastle, I suppose refers to this John Pigg:—"Att a meeting the 27th March, 1665, itt is ordered by the generall consent of the major part of the company that noe brother of the said company shall be employed to worke by or with John Pigg, on any piece of worke which he shall take, except it be aboute his own proper worke—every brother so offending shall forfeite and pay 40s. unforgiven. And that they nor any of the said company shall take any worke of his in hand which he first hath taken to be wrought." In the burial register

of St. Andrew's church, in Newcastle, the following entry occurs :—"John Pige, January 27, 1688-9" This is supposed to be the person above described. He left by will, a considerable property to charitable and other purposes,

1677.—King Charles II. granted to his natural son, Charles, duke of Richmond, and his heirs, one shilling per chaldron on coals shipped from the port of Newcastle.

1678 (*March 27*).—The first election of representatives for the city of Durham took place. The candidates were Sir Ralph Cole, of Brancepeth Castle, bart., 408; John Parkhurst, of Catesby, county of Northampton, esq., 379; William Tempest, of Old Durham, esq., 376; John Turner, of Kirkleatham, esq. sergeant at law, 187; and John Christian, esq., 171. The two first were returned. Previous to this, and 1675, no members had been returned for the county or city, excepting the three parliaments during Cromwell's usurpation.

1680.—About this year, Dean Sudbury converted the Frater-house or Monk's-hall, into an elegant library for the dean and chapter of Durham. Many Roman inscriptions found in Northumberland and Durham, are here deposited, as well as many records and curiosities, and among them a copy of Magna Charta, dated 12th November, 1216; another dated 11th February, 1224, A MS. copy of the bible in 4 vols. folio, 600 years old; and Bede's five books of History, of the same date.

In South Shields church-yard, on a grave stone, is the following inscription :—"Here lyeth interred y^e body of Sir William Hamelton, knight and baronet, sonne of y^e earl of Abercorne, late servant to Henrietta Maria, y^e late queene mother of our soveraigne lord King Charles y^e second, that now is over England, &c. who dēped to y^e mercy of God y^e 28 of June, Anno Dom. 1681."

1681.—Jesus' Hospital, commonly called the Town's Hospital, situate in the Manor Chare, Newcastle was founded, erected, and endowed, at the charge of the corporation. It stands upon part of the ground of the Augustine friars.

1682 (*April 26 and 27*).—There was a great flood in the river Wear, at Durham.

May 6.—The first day that men and women servants presented themselves to be hired in Durham market.

November 20.—A great wind blew in one half of a window in the west end of the cathedral at Durham.

About the year 1682, that enterprising genius, Sir Ambrose Crowley, fixed upon Sunderland, with an intention of establishing his manufactory; but the situation not answering his expectations, he was induced in 1690, to transplant his cyclopean colony to Swallowwell, about four miles above Newcastle, where it still remains. A stone in the mill-dam is dated 1691. In 1705, a chapel capable of holding 300 persons was built at Winlaton, for the use of the workmen; schools too were established, and a code of laws drawn up, which in a great measure superseded the general laws of the land, and became locally established. Sir John Anvil, in the Spectator,

No. 299, is said to be Sir Ambrose Crowley. The following advertisement from the Post Boy, No. 510, is quoted in a very rare pamphlet entitled "The Mischief of the Five Shilling Tax upon Coal, 1699."—"Mr. Crowley at the Doublet in Thames Street, London, ironmonger, doth hereby give Notice, that at his Works at Winlaton, near Newcastle upon Tyne, any good Workmen that can make the following Goods, shall have constant Employment, and their Wages every week punctually paid, (viz.) Augers, Bed-screws, Box and Sad-Irons, Chains, Edge-Tooles, Files, Hammers, Hinges, Hows for the Plantations, Locks, especially Ho-Locks, Nails, Patten Rings, and almost all other sorts of Smith's Ware."

1682.—The alms-houses "for the convenient lodging of poor impotent persons belonging to the township of Stockton," were erected about this year by several munificent benefactors. In 1816 the alms-houses were entirely rebuilt on a handsome plan by a bequest of £3,000. left by the will of George Brown, esq.

1683 (*April*).—At this time there were races in the city of Durham, as appears from an entry in the register of St. Nicholas' parish, wherein it is stated that Simon Lackenby had "*to give ten shillings towards a silver plate for a course.*"

August 3.—The assizes began at Durham. There was such an inundation of the river Wear, that the judges (Jones and Strut), entered the city by Gilesgate, and read their commission about eight o'clock at night.

September 15.—A man named Simpson, a glazier of Gateshead, stood about an hour and a half in the pillory at Durham, for taking a bribe from ——— a quaker.

1684 (*Jan. 25*).—A son and two daughters of John and Margaret Brass, living near Ferryhill, in the county of Durham, were murdered by Andrew Mills, their father's servant, when the parents were from home. This strange tragedy seems to have originated neither in revenge nor avarice, nor in any of the common springs of human passion, but was probably acted under the unresisted influence of a sudden insane impulse. Mills according to tradition, was esteemed a quiet unoffending lad, yet it is generally added of somewhat deranged or deficient intellect, and it is said had shewn particular attachment to the youngest victim of his mad paroxysm. The master and mistress were absent on a Christmas visit, and Mills was left at home with the younger family. According to the murderer's own confession (and on this point no other evidence could be had), neither provocation nor cause of quarrel had arisen; and he persisted to the last in stating that he had acted on an immediate suggestion of the devil, who, according to some accounts appeared to him *bodily*. The eldest girl struggled with him for some time, and he did not murder her till after he had broken her arm, which she had placed as a bolt to secure the door of the inner chamber, where the younger children were sleeping. He then entered that inner room, murdered the younger girl with the blow of an axe as she slept, and was it seems leaving the house, when a voice or impulse fell on him bidding him *kill all! kill all!* he

went back, dragged the youngest child from beneath the bed and completed his bloody business. He made no attempt to escape, but remained amongst his bleeding victims, and awaited the return of the miserable parents. For these horrid murders Mills was tried and executed on the 15th of August, 1684, on what was a common by the road side, about half a mile to the north of Ferry-hill, in full view of the scene of his murder, and was afterwards hung in chains. A portion of the gibbet, or as it was called, *Andrew Mills' stob*, remained a few years ago, but the spot is now ploughed and inclosed. The daughter who was about to be married, was 20 years of age, the son 18 years, and the youngest daughter 11. Mills was about 18 or 19 years of age. To commemorate this horrid tragedy, an altar tomb was erected in Merlington church yard, which was restored by subscription in 1789.

1684.—In the beginning of this year it was signified to the corporation of Newcastle, that the king expected a surrender of their charter, which was to be renewed on condition that the mayor, recorder, sheriff, and town-clerk, might be always in the king's power to appoint or confirm. The charter of confirmation granted by King Charles II., in consequence of the above surrender, reached Newcastle on the 13th February, 1685, two days after the proclaiming of King James II.

August 25.—This year, the charter of the city of Durham was surrendered to Bishop Crewe, by the mayor and a majority of the aldermen and privy council. March 7, 1685, the bishop granted a new charter, but the surrender being deemed invalid, the old charter was again acted on.

September 9.—There was a general muster of the train bands of the bishopric of Durham.

September 28.—John Richardson, *senior*, tanner in Framwellgate, Durham, died under sentence of excommunication. His grave was dug in the choir of Crossgate church, but the bishop would not permit him to be buried there, and, on the 29th, he was buried in his garden at Caterhouse.

1684.—Under this year, there is the following curious entry in Gateshead parish books. "For carrying 26 quakers to Durham, £2. 17s."

A marvellous escape from destruction is related in the MS. Life of Alderman Barnes.—"One of his brother-in-law's (Alderman Hutchinson's) apprentices, stepping up into the back-lofts to fetch somewhat he wanted, in his headlessness and haste, stops his candle into a barrel of gun-powder whose head was struck off, to serve instead of a candlestick. But the man reflecting what he had done, was struck with affrightment, his heart failed him, nor durst he stay any longer, but running down stairs, leaves the candle burning in the gun-powder cask, and with horror, trembling, and despair, tells the family what indiscretion he had committed; they were all immediately at their wits' end, and well they might, for the lofts were three stories high, very large, and stowed full with whatever is combustible, as brandy, oil, pitch, tar, rosin, flax, alum, hops, and many barrels of gunpowder. Had the candle fallen to a

side, or had the least spark fallen from the snuff into the cask, the whole town had been shaken, and the lower part of it had been immediately blown up and in a blaze; but one of the labourers, a stout fellow, run forthwith into the loft, and joining both his hands together, drew the candle softly up between his middlemost fingers, so that if any snuff had dropped, it must have fallen into the hollow of the man's hand, and by this means was Newcastle saved from being laid in ashes." This must have happened about the year 1684.

1686 (*Jan. 5*).—The common-council of Newcastle were removed, and new ones elected in obedience to a mandate of King James II., dated Whitehall, Dec. 15, 1685.

This year, Berwick became the ducal title of James Fitz James, natural son of King James II., of England, whom he created duke of Berwick. He also created him earl of Tynemouth.

1686 and 1687.—King James II, sent two letters to the hoastmen of Newcastle, requiring them by the first, to enfranchise Sir William Creagh, knt., and by the second, to make him free of their society in the most ample manner. They received several mandates from the same king to enfranchise John and Thomas Errington of Beaufront, in Northumberland, gentlemen. They were all disfranchised after James' abdication.

1687 (*June 30*).—Sir William Creagh, knt., a zealous Roman catholic, was admitted to the freedom of the corporation of Newcastle, in consequence of a mandate from King James II., dated May 31, 1687.

This year, the white cross in Newcastle is described as almost quite demolished and fallen down. There were orders for the then town surveyor to rebuild it. Mention is made of this cross so early as the year 1410.

A plain cross in the village of Eshe, in the county of Durham, is inscribed I. H. S., and on the other side, 1687.

This year, the house of Sir Thomas Haggerston, bart., in Berwick, of which he was then governor, was burnt down, when most of the ancient deeds and writings belonging to the family were destroyed.

1688 (*Jan. 3*).—Sir William Creagh, knt., was, by mandamus from the king, dated at Whitehall, Dec. 24, 1687, elected mayor of Newcastle, and Samuel Gill, his sheriff. By this mandate, John Squire, mayor, and William Ramsay, sheriff, who had been duly elected, were removed.

January 4.—Died at the city of Durham, Mrs. Hutchinson, aged 103.

January 16.—A very fulsome address was signed not only by Sir William Creagh, knt., then mayor of Newcastle, and by the other aldermen of that town that were Roman catholics, but by some others of the magistracy who were dissenters; but it was not presented to the king, having been over-ruled by a majority of the common-council. On the accession of King James II., the magistracy of Newcastle were composed of Roman Catholics and protestants, conformists and non-conformists; the cap, the mace, and the sword, were one day carried to the church, another day to the

Roman catholic chapel, and on a third to the dissenting meeting-house.

1688 (*Feb. 11*).—This year, a writ of *quo warranto* was served upon the mayor of Newcastle, and on the 8th of March following, a surrender of the charter of that town was sealed under the common-seal, and signed by Sir William Creagh, knt., mayor, eight aldermen, the sheriff, and fourteen of the common-council.

King James II., between the 9th of June and the 22d of September, appears to have granted a new charter to Newcastle, which, however, the subsequent order of council and proclamation of that king, dated October 17 following, soon cancelled and made void. Thus again the corporation of Newcastle, emancipated from the shackles of a government founded on principles of the most despotic tyranny, recovered its ancient liberty in the choice of its own officers and magistrates, and immediately exercised that liberty by appointing a new set of them.

A little before the Revolution there was erected before the Exchange, in the midst of the Sandhill, Newcastle, a most beautiful equestrian statue of King James II., cast in copper, of the size of the famous equestrian statue of Charles I., at Charing-Cross, London. The horse stood raised upon its hind feet. The king was clothed in a coat of mail, booted and gauntleted; by his side hung a Roman flaming sword; his right hand held the truncheon, his left the bridle; down his breast hung the George by the collar of his coronation; on his head, a wig, and round his temples, a wreath of laurel. The statue was raised upon a pedestal of white Italian marble, 14 feet from the base, which was of black marble polished. On the dexter side of the pedestal was curiously carved, in basso relievo, all the trophies of war surrounding the king's name, &c. On the sinister side was carved the town's arms, the names of the mayor, recorder, and sheriff. On the ends was the representation of a sea-fight, and the whole surrounded with iron palisades. It was the work of Mr. William Larson, was approved of by Sir Christopher Wren, and cost the town £800. sterling. In November, 1688, when the town received the Lord Lumley, and declared for the Prince of Orange, and a free parliament, this statue was demolished by the mob, who dragged the statue and its horse upon the Quay, and turned them over into the river. This statue was afterwards cast into a set of bells, as appears by the following extract from the common-council books:—"April 1, 1695, All Saints' parish humbly requests the metal of the statue (of James II., on Sandhill), towards the repair of their bells." St. Andrews' parish made a similar request. "Ordered, that All Saints' have the metal belonging to the horse of the said statue, except a leg thereof, which must go towards the casting of a new bell for St. Andrew's parish." A print of this statue was published, price 5s., at Newcastle, by Joseph Barber, music and copper-plate printer. Mr. Barber's proposals for this print were circulated in June 1742; and its being ready for delivery, was announced by the following advertisement, February 19, 1743:—"This day is

published, and ready to be delivered to the subscribers, dedicated to John Simpson, esq., mayor, and the recorder, aldermen, and sheriff, &c., of Newcastle, by Joseph Barber, copper-plate printer, in Humble's Buildings, Newcastle, being just arrived from London, the curious copper-plate print of the equestrian statue of King James II., (printed on two large sheets of Genoa paper) which was erected on the Sandhill, and destroyed at the Revolution by a furious mob. Taken from an original painting, and illustrated with near 200 coats of arms, neatly engraved, being the arms of such of the subscribers as came to hand in time." These which were on the sides of the plate, after the subscription copies were taken off, were cut from it, and sold at 2s. 6d. each, together with 100 impressions, "for pasting on the inside of books."



INSCRIPTION UPON THE PEDESTAL.

JAMES the II.
*By the Grace of God,
of Great Britain,
France and Ireland,
King, Defender of the Faith,
Sir William Creagh, Knight,
Mayor,
Samuel Gill, Esq.,
Sheriff,
1688.*

As the date 1685, on Barber's print and subsequent publications, is evidently erroneous, it is here corrected.

1688.—The meeting-house belonging to the society of friends at Sunderland, was demolished, and the interior part consumed by a lawless rabble, as appears by the following:—"Anno 1688—At Sunderland, on the 20th of December, between eight and ten at night, W— S—, W— H—, and G— S—, masters and mariners; E— R—, and J— M—, fitters, all of that town, broke two locks, entered the meeting-house, then the copyhold estate of William Maud, pulled out a form and went away. About one of the clock the same night, they returned with a rabble of boys and the baser sort of the people, and broke open the house again, pulled up and burnt the floors, doors, and windows, seats and roof of the house, totally demolishing it before eight next morning. About which time the said W— S—, marched in front of the rabble with his sword by his side, when they broke the windows of several houses of the people called quakers, as they passed the streets."

1689.—An act of parliament was passed for establishing a court of conscience at Newcastle, and in the reign of King George II. it was ordered that after the 1st of January, 1755, it should be a public act.

1689.—This year, a great part of Morpeth was burnt by accident. The loss was estimated at £3,500.

1690 (*May 12*).—Died, Mr. John Rushworth, author of the "Historical Collections." He was a native of Northumberland, and born about the year 1607. After studying at Oxford, he entered himself of Lincoln's Inn, and became a barrister. Being fond of state affairs he constantly attended the councils and courts, and during the civil war travelled for information. He was assistant-clerk of the House of Commons, and secretary to General Fairfax, his relation. On the 14th of March, 1652, he was admitted to the freedom of the corporation of Newcastle. In 1677, sir Orlando Bridgman, lord-keeper of the great seal, appointed him his secretary. He served in five parliaments for Berwick upon Tweed. Many were the opportunities he had of enriching himself, but either through carelessness or extravagance, he never became master of any considerable possessions. He dragged out the last

six years of his life a prisoner for debt, in the King's Bench, where he died, and was buried behind the pulpit in St. George's church, Southwark. He had several daughters, one of whom was married to Sir Francis Vane.

1691 (*July 26*).—Henry Cavendish, duke of Newcastle, died, and having no male issue, that honour became extinct in the male line of the family, but John Holles, earl of Clare, who had married Margaret Cavendish, his third daughter, was promoted to the dignity of marquis of Clare and duke of Newcastle upon Tyne.

August 26.—Died, Sir John Duck, baronet, and on the 31st, he was buried at St. Margaret's church, in the city of Durham. He was the wealthiest burghess whom Durham ever produced. His birth, patronage, &c., remain in impenetrable obscurity. He was bred a butcher under John Heslop, in defiance of the whole craft, in whose books there still exists a gentle reprimand to Heslop "to *forbear* to sett John Ducke on worke in the trade of a butcher, on paine of 39s. 11d." John Duck, however, was born to greatness, and grew rich in spite of the butchers, and married either the sister or the daughter of his benefactor; and was created a baronet by King James II. He built a splendid mansion-house in Silver Street, in the city of Durham, and in 1685, founded and endowed an hospital at Great Lumley, for twelve ancient widows or spinsters. In a principal upper-room in the former, a painting on pannel still exists, recording his happy rise to fortune. The baronet, then humble Duck, *cast out* by the butchers, stands near a bridge in an attitude of despondency, and in the air a raven is seen bearing in its bill a piece of money, which, according to tradition, fell at his feet, and which being "*put out to use*," was the nucleus on which he wound a splendid fortune. On the right is a view of the mansion in Silver Street, and on the left the hospital at Lumley. This mansion house has been many years known by the sign of the Black Lion. From some informality, Duck was denied his freedom, till 1680, when in the year of his mayoralty, he was admitted of the butchers' company. December 14, 1695, Lady Duck died, and was buried beside her husband. They left no issue.

This year, the present mansion-house of the mayor of Newcastle, in the Close, was begun to be built, and cost the corporation in building £6,000. besides the furniture.

1692 (*July 12*).—Mention occurs of "a cross at the Flesh-market," Newcastle. Here also stood a pillory.

December 2.—Died, John March, vicar of Newcastle, and a native of that town. He was an admirable scholar, a man of strict piety, and a most powerful preacher. The last sermon he preached was from the epistle to the Hebrews, chapter ii., verse 3. *How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?* This sermon he preached on the morning of Sunday, November 27, and on the Sunday following, he was buried. This sermon with eleven others of Mr. March's, were published the year after his death, by Dr. John Scott, author of the *Christian Life*, who wrote the preface to recommend them. A portrait of Mr. March, engraved by Sturt,

is prefixed to these sermons. This volume was printed in London "for Robert Clavell, and sold by Joseph Hall, bookseller on Tyne Bridge, Newcastle; where the author's picture in large and small paper are to be sold alone, 1693." Several sermons of Mr. March's were published in his life-time.

1693.—Waggon ways were now first used on the river Wear, by Thomas Allan, esq., of Newcastle, who amassed a large fortune in the collieries and purchased estates, a part of which still retains the name of *Allan's Flatts*, near Chester-le-Street.

September 3.—Mr. Frappart, a Dutchman, was executed at Durham, for killing Mr. Newton.

1694 (Sep. 16).—Lord Atkinson, of Cannywood Side, was killed by Ralph Maddison of Shotley Bridge. He was afterwards hanged for the murder.

This year, a cause came on in the Exchequer, the mayor and burgesses of Newcastle, plaintiffs; the dean and chapter of Durham and Samuel Shepherd, defendants. A trial was directed on the two following issues: 1st, the defendants could not lawfully erect or use a ballast quay or wharf at Westoe, or Jarrow Slake, without the license of the mayor and burgesses of Newcastle: 2d, the erection of such ballast quay at Westoe, or Jarrow Slake, would be a detriment to the river; and in June, 1697, a verdict was found on both issues for the plaintiffs, and the court granted a perpetual injunction, to stop the defendants, and every of them from erecting any ballast quay or wharf in the above places. March 7, 1698, the dean and chapter appealed to the house of lords, which appeal was dismissed, May 7, the same year, and the order in favour of the corporation of Newcastle confirmed. In Jarrow Slake, the royal navy of the Saxon king, Egfrid, is said to have rode at anchor.

The vicarage house in Westgate Street, Newcastle, was repaired and enlarged by the Rev. Dr. Ellison, the then vicar. According to Bourne, "there is a hall belonging to this house, built in a very grand and stately manner, according to the hospitality of the times it was built in. In particular, it was the place where the vicars of Newcastle were wont to entertain the inferior officers of churches, the clerks, sextons, &c., at the season of Christinmas." This house was plundered by the Scots after the siege of the town in 1644.

1695 (April 2).—An act for the better admeasurement of keels and keel-boats, in the port of Newcastle, received the royal assent.

The following is extracted from the register of St. Andrews', in Newcastle:—"April 24th, 1695, were buried, James Archer and his son Stephen, who, in the month of May, 1658, were drowned in a coal-pitt in the Galla-Flat,* by the breaking in of water from an old waste. The bodys were found intire after they had lyen in the water 36 years and 11 months."

* There were collieries at Heygrove, Westfield, and Gallow-flat, near Elswick, so early as 1330, which see.

1695.—The chapel of Old Bewick, near a village of that name, overhanging the eastern bank of the river Till, in the parish of Eglingham, in Northumberland, which is entirely in ruins, appears from the following inscription over the west door, to have been repaired in the above year :—" This chappell repaired at the charge of Ralph Williamson, esq. anno domini, 1695."

1696 (*Aug. 8*).—About six o'clock in the evening " a sad and lamentable fire" broke out in Gateshead, which suddenly burnt down and consumed the dwelling house of Henry Holmes. It also did great damage to the houses of Thomas Potts, widow Hutton, and several others, destroying many rich goods, wares, and household furniture, amounting to the value of one thousand two hundred and fifty five pounds. The judges of assize, sir Edward Ward, knt., and Sir John Turton, knt., then upon the northern circuit, having, in passing down Gateshead, been eye witnesses of this calamitous visitation, recommended the case of the sufferers to the archbishop of York, the bishop of Durham, the bishop of Chester, and the bishop of Carlisle, who ordered collections to be made in the various churches of their dioceses for the relief of the sufferers.

1697 (*Jan. 27*).—Sir John Fenwick of Wallington, in Northumberland, was beheaded on Tower-hill, London, upon suspicion of being engaged in a plot to assassinate King William III. Sir John was a member of parliament in 1660, and of the successive parliaments of Charles II., and James II. He was a man of considerable talent, and romantically attached to the house of Stuart. He alienated the estates of a long line of ancestry ; was attainted of high treason, and beheaded ; but he had splendid traits in his character, and good men pitied his death on account of the harsh and unconstitutional measures by which it was accomplished. After the great fire in London in 1666, he built the great hall in Christ's Hospital, in which the boys dine and sup. His restless spirit had led him, in the year 1694, to assist in concerting plans for the restoration of King James II. ; but, in 1696, finding that government was acquainted with his proceedings, he set out for France, but was apprehended at New Romney, in Kent, committed to the Tower, and indicted at the Old Bailey for "*compassing and imagining the death and destruction of the king, and adhering to his enemies.*" He was afterwards condemned by a law made on purpose to stain the scaffold with his blood—made after the crime was done, for which he was accused by a guilty approver. One act of mercy was allowed to Sir John ; he was not dragged through the streets to be hanged at Tyburn, as the law required ; but the king, in consideration, it is supposed, of the high rank of Lady Fenwick, (Lady Mary Howard, eldest daughter of Charles, earl of Carlisle), omitted all execution of the act of forfeiture, except beheading him on Tower-hill. He met his fate with great firmness and composure, in the 52d year of his age. His body was buried near the altar of St. Martin's church, London, on the following day, near those of his three sons.

1698 (*July 5*).—An act was passed for the better supplying the town of Newcastle with fresh water.

1699 (*April 23*).—Upon St. George's day there fell hail in and about Durham five inches in diameter.

This year, a fire happened in Sandgate, in the suburbs of Newcastle.

The market-cross at Morpeth was built this year.

About the close of the 17th century, the old market-cross at Darlington, was built by lady Brown, widow of Sir Richard Brown. Lady Brown was first married to Michael Blackett, second son of Sir William Blackett, of Newcastle, 2d, to Sir Richard Brown of London, bart., and, 3d, to Dr. John Moore, bishop of Ely. Lady Brown, was a daughter of Alderman Barnes, of Newcastle.

1700 (*July 29*).—The keelmen petitioned the common-council of Newcastle, for a piece of ground whereon to erect themselves an hospital. August 23, the hoastmen made an order, that the lease for the above ground, which was sealed and executed on the 4th of October following, should be taken in the name of the governor, wardens, and fraternity of hoastmen, for the use and benefit of the keelmen. The charge of this hospital, which was finished in 1701, amounted to above two thousand pounds, towards the defraying of which each keelman paid four pence a tide.

August 9.—Lord Crewe, bishop of Durham, and his lady, arrived in the city of Durham from Auckland palace, and were met by a large company of gentlemen and tradesmen. The streets and windows were filled with people, and all the trades' banners were displayed.

In December, this year, a society appears to have been established in Sandgate, in the suburbs of Newcastle, for the reformation of manners, consisting of twenty keelmen, who had entered into an agreement to exert themselves in preventing tipping upon the Lord's day, and keeping Sandgate free of inmates.

1700.—The [^]chapel at Belford, in Northumberland, was erected ^{his son} this year.

A free school, was this year, founded and endowed with several benefactions at Allendale, in Northumberland.

1701 (*Jan. 9*).—The school, at the anchorage, in Gateshead church-yard, was founded by Theophilus Pickering, S. T. P., rector of Gateshead.

August 22.—Mr. John Fenwick, of Rock, in Northumberland, stabbed Ferdinando Forster, esq., one of the representatives in parliament for that county, between the White Cross and a thorn tree, which stood at that time in Newgate Street, in Newcastle. The quarrel arose about some family matters at dinner, at the Black Horse inn, near the White Cross, which was then the best inn in Newcastle. Fenwick challenged the other to fight, and as they went out, being behind Forster, he stabbed him in that situation. This happened during the assizes. Fenwick was hanged on the 25th of September following, at the White Cross, and all the gates of the town were shut during the execution, for fear of a rescue

from the people of the north, with whom the name of Fenwick was held in great veneration.

The following is from the late Alderman Hornby's MS. notes to Brand:—"The account given in this note* is entirely erroneous, as I think I have sufficient authority to say, from the information of several respectable old persons, who either lived at that time or soon after, and of course likely to be much better informed of the truth than Mr. Brand *ever had* an opportunity of being. Indeed I make no scruple to add, that his account comes from something of a tradition handed down amongst low, vulgar, and uninformed persons. I shall take for my principal authority, the late Edward Collingwood, esq., recorder of Newcastle, *who informed me* that his father was present when the quarrel happened. The company consisted of the whole or part of the grand jury of Northumberland, and probably, during that state of conviviality which prevailed much on these occasions about that period, Mr. Fenwick came in singing a favourite party song, the burthen of which was "*Sir John Fenwick's the flower among them,*" this brought on some altercation betwixt him and Mr. Forster, but the company interfering, the matter was supposed to be quite settled. The next morning the parties met accidentally near the White Cross, the altercation was renewed, swords were drawn, and Mr. Forster killed. I have been told by other authorities, that Mr. Fenwick was taken in the garden behind Gallowgate or Sidgate, that at his execution the gates of the town were shut for fear of a rescue, and that he was hanged upon a piece of timber fixed betwixt the gaol and the gaoler's house. He was the owner of Kenton, where, and in the neighbourhood, collieries were then wrought, and the apprehension was from the pitmen."

1702 (*March 6*).—The alms-houses in Sedgfield, were founded by Mr. Thomas Cooper, surgeon, in that town, for five poor men and five poor women, being of the age of fifty years at least. The alms-houses are a range of low brick buildings on the north side of the church. The founder's arms are in the centre.

March 14.—The Princess Anne, of Denmark, was proclaimed queen of England, in the city of Durham, by the bishop and prebends, the mayor and aldermen attending, amidst a great concourse of spectators.

In the beginning of the 18th century, a coal-mine near Benwell, in Northumberland, took fire at a candle, and burned near thirty years. Its progress was small at first, but it afterwards acquired so great strength, as to spread into the Fenham grounds, and burst out in the manner of a volcano, in near twenty places. It covered the furze in its way with flour of sulphur, and cast up pieces of sal ammoniac six inches broad.

1703.—In the register of burials belonging to St. Andrew's church, in Newcastle, there is the following most horrid entry:—"Aug. 8, 1703, Elizabeth Sharper, who lived in Sidd-gatt, rip opin

* Note g, Brand's History of Newcastle, Vol. II. page 504.

her own belly with a pair of scissars. The wound was six inches long, and her pudens came out and lay on each side of her, and was buried, August 8, 1703." The following particulars are from the MS. Life of Alderman Barnes:—"Elizabeth Sharper was well respected by her neighbours, and lived with her sister to a great age unmarried, only it was whispered she bore a child to another woman's husband in her younger years. When she had reached her 80th year of age, she fell at once into a deep despair, there was no outward cause by losses or other calamities, that could be assigned as the occasion of it:—most, if not all the parish clergy of Newcastle visited her, but no comfort they could offer ever staid with her. She confessed her bearing a bastard, which was taken from her body, and she believed was murdered. She ript up her belly with a pair of scissars, and pulled her bowels out with her hand. A surgeon put them in their place again and sewed up her belly. She had her reason and senses perfectly, and lived and died in a house that belonged to Mr. Barnes." For another horrid instance of self-destruction, see *October 23, 1763.*

1705 (*Sep. 25*).—Alexander Robinson was appointed by the corporation of Newcastle to be the "common executioner in hanging of felons, putting persons in the pillory, clearing the streets of swine, and to doe and perform all other matters belonging to the place and duty of Hougher." This personage is called "Whipper and Hougher," from his having to whip delinquents, and cut the houghs, or *sinews* of the houghs, of swine that were found infesting the streets of the town. This was a very barbarous duty, now disused.

A chapel was built at Winlaton (said to be on the foundation of St. Ann's chapel, destroyed in the rebellion of the earls in 1569), capable of containing 300 persons. It was for the accommodation of the workmen under Sir Ambrose Crowley, by whom and his successors very extensive works were carried on at this place and Swalwell until the peace in 1815, when the works diminished, and soon after the chapel fell into decay, upon the site of which a large school room was erected by subscription, aided by gifts from the national and diocesan school societies, and from Lord Crewe's trustees. The church service was voluntarily performed in this school-room until the new church was built.

This year, there was an attempt made to procure an act of parliament to make the river Wear navigable, and to build a pier or piers at Sunderland; upon which occasion the corporation of Newcastle requested their members to oppose the intended bill, and prevent its passing into a law. The royal assent was given to this bill, June 22, 1717.

The charity school of St. Nicholas', Newcastle, was this year founded by Mrs. Eleanor Allan for forty boys and twenty girls. The school-house, in the Manor Chare, was built by the corporation, in 1786. The boys, on the erection of the Clergy Jubilee School, were removed thither.

1705.—This year, the charity school of St. John's, in Newcastle, was founded by Mr. John Ord.

This year, the whole house of commons were ordered to attend Queen Anne with an address to request orders for putting the town and port of Newcastle, into a state of defence.

1706 (*Dec. 19*).—George Peacock, of Aisleby, was buried at Sadberge, in the county of Durham, aged near 138 years.

This year, it was in agitation to remove the rocks at the entrance of the river Tyne, called the "*Black Middens*," which had long been complained of as nuisances to the navigation of that river. This has never yet been accomplished, although they are so dangerous and destructive to the shipping.

1707 (*January*).—Died Sir Ralph Delaval, a brave admiral, born at North Dissington, in Northumberland. He entered very early into the navy, and under the patronage of the Duke of York, rose regularly in rank until he became captain of the York, a third-rate man of war, which station he held at the revolution. King William raised him to the rank of rear-admiral, and conferred upon him the honour of knighthood. Soon after this he was made vice-admiral of the blue, and 1692, he was promoted to be vice-admiral of the red. In the glorious battle off La Hogue, the 19th of May this year, he did his duty with great reputation, and destroyed some of the enemy's largest ships. Soon after this, party intrigue so far prevailed, as to be the means of laying the invaluable services of this gallant admiral aside, after which he lived privately as a country gentleman. His remains were interred in Westminster Abbey.

April 21.—An address was presented to Queen Anne, from the officers of the corporation of Newcastle, congratulating her majesty on the happy union of the two kingdoms of England and Scotland.

July 3.—At this time there was a mutiny among the skippers or keelmen of the river Tyne.

The floor and aisles of St. Andrew's church, in Newcastle, were this year flagged. Before this time it had an earthen floor.

At this time, Newcastle races were run on Killingworth moor.

1708.—Sir William Blackett, bart., founded St. Andrew's charity school, in Newcastle, and the first boy entered the school in January this year. It was for thirty boys. The son of the founder, about the year 1719, made an additional endowment, for the purpose of clothing them.

1709 (*March*).—The keelmen mutinied at Newcastle, they held out for several weeks, and prevented the keels from working upon the river, to the great annoyance of the coal trade.

April 7.—The society of the sons of the clergy was established in Newcastle. Mr. Nathaniel Clayton, merchant, and Mr. Deodatus Therlkeld, were its chief promoters and first stewards. At the first meeting, Sept. 5, 1709, the subscription amounted but to five pounds. Sept. 14, an attempt of the like kind was made in Northumberland, for the benefit of the two deaneries of Alnwick and

Bamborough. In 1725, the society in Newcastle, and the above, for the benefit of the two deaneries, were united. In 1773, it was agreed upon that the anniversary meetings of this society should in future be held alternately at Durham and Newcastle. The first meeting held at Durham was in 1774.

1709.—The charity school of All Saints' parish in Newcastle, for forty-one boys and seventeen girls, was founded by voluntary subscription. The same year, the corporation gave a piece of ground in the Manors, whereon to build a school house.

The following is extracted from the burial register of Hunstanworth, in the county of Durham, under Nov. 4, this year, "Ann, daughter of James Collin, who was eighteen years of age, and never chewed bread; of stature not above a three years' old child, the thickest part of her arms and legs not exceeding the thickness of a man's thumb."

This year, application was made to parliament and leave obtained to bring in a bill to make the river Tyne navigable from Newburn to Hexham; but, the corporation of Newcastle, opposed the measure as likely to be ruinous to their port. Several unsuccessful attempts have since been made. The public attention has recently been drawn to a railroad between Newcastle and Carlisle, and an act of Parliament obtained for this purpose in 1829.

1710 (*June 5*).—The foundation stone was laid of a new church at Stockton. This edifice was consecrated by Bishop Crewe, August 21, 1712. It is a spacious structure of brick, the doors and windows coped with freestone; the tower at the west end is eighty feet high, and has a ring of six bells. A clock and chimes were added in 1736. The church is regularly stilled with oak. There are two galleries; that on the west has an excellent organ, erected in 1759; the north gallery was added in 1748. The additional piece of ground to the cemetery was consecrated by Bishop Trevor, July 20, 1770. During the episcopacy of Bishop Poore, who died in 1234, a chapel of ease was erected at Stockton, which becoming ruinous, and too small for the increased number of inhabitants, was taken down, and this church built in its stead.

June 10.—A petition was ordered to be forwarded to Queen Anne, concerning a riot of the keelmen in the port of Tyne. They had put an entire stop to the coal trade.

This year, the gallery at the north side of St. John's church, in Newcastle, was built. The porch was also rebuilt this year:—Thomas Fletcher, Robert Percival, John Quincy, and John Fairlam, being then churchwardens.

1711 (*Jan. 15*).—Mr. Jacob Bee, the chronologist, was buried at St. Margaret's church, in the city of Durham, at which place he was born in 1636. He was brought up to the sister arts of skinner and glover, and flourished in his native city for nearly three quarters of a century. "BEE'S DIARY," is a very curious collection of local occurrences, stated in very quaint and homely language, nevertheless his veracity has never been questioned. He was a humble, but indefatigable chronologist, thereby handing to posterity

many events which would otherwise have been lost, but for this industrious Bee. In the latter part of his life, he was an outpensioner of Sherburn hospital.

1711 (*Aug. 1*).—This day was published by Mr. John White, printer, the first paper entitled the Newcastle Courant. It was at the time of its commencement, the only newspaper north of the Trent, and, for several years, published three times a-week. It was not commenced being numbered until Saturday, May the first, 1725, when Number 1. appeared in demy 4to. (4 pages), price two-pence, including stamp one halfpenny. This paper, which has ever since been published on the Saturday, contains in its present enlarged form, upwards of a dozen times as much information as in 1725, and is only charged sevenpence, including a stamp duty of fourpence. It is still published under its original title, by Mr. Edward Walker. *See January 26, 1769.*

Stockton was originally a chapelry to Norton, a pleasant village about two miles to the north, but was constituted a distinct parish in the above year.

This year, Denton Tower (part of the town's wall at the west end of the postern) which is the hall or meeting house of the incorporated company of wallers, bricklayers, and plasterers, of Newcastle, was repaired for this purpose at their expence, Richard Fletcher and William Johnson wardens. Previous to this time their place of meeting was in the White Friar Tower. They have an ancient mutilated ordinary belonging to them, which Mr. Brand had not seen, as he makes no mention of it, but quotes a modern one.

The gallery at the west end of St. Andrew's church, in Newcastle, was erected this year, at the charge of the parish.

1712 (*May 9*).—The free school belonging to the Trinity-house in Newcastle, was ordered by the master and brethren, for the instruction of the children. The school-house was rebuilt in 1753.

The dwellers on the north road were surprised by the phenomenon of a vehicle which traversed the distance between London and Edinburgh, in the brief space of a fortnight. The commencement of this surprising novelty was thus announced in the Newcastle Courant for October, 1712:—"Edinburgh, Berwick, Newcastle, Durham, and London stage-coach begins on Monday the 13th October, 1712. All that desire to pass from Edinbro' to London, or from London to Edinbro', or any place on that road, let them repair to Mr. John Baillie's, at the Coach and Horses, at the Head of the Cannongate, Edinbro', every other Saturday, or to the Black Swan, in Holborn, every other Monday, at both of which places they may be received in a Stage-Coach, which performs the whole journey in thirteen days without any stoppage (if God permit), having eighty able horses to perform the whole stage. Each passenger paying £4. 10s. for the whole journey, allowing each passenger 20lbs. weight, and all above to pay 6d. per pound. The coach sets off at six in the morning. Performed by HENRY HARRISON, NICH. SPEIGHL, ROBT. GARBE, RICH. CROFT." This,

then a wonder, is but a snail-like pace compared to the present mode of performing the same distance, *which is accomplished in 42 hours*

1713.—Heaton hall, about two miles east of Newcastle, was *See XVI.* built. It is the seat of Sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., whose grandfather, from designs furnished by Mr. Newton, of Newcastle, architect, gave the building its present elegant appearance, by adding the two towers, and facing the front with stone. The mock ruins upon the hill top at Byker. were built as ornamental objects from Heaton hall. Tradition relates that King John made Heaton one of the places of his retreat. Ruins of an old building still carry the name of *King John's palace. See Dec. 7, 1299.*

1714.—The first steam engine on the north side of the Tyne, is said to have been erected at Byker colliery, the property of Rich. Ridley, Esq. The engineer was the reputed son of a Swedish nobleman, who taught mathematics at Newcastle.

1715 (*March 3*).—Died, William Elstob, the celebrated Saxon scholar. Mr. Elstob was the son of Ralph Elstob, merchant adventurer, of Newcastle, and born there, from whence he was sent to Eton, and from thence to Catharine-hall, Cambridge, which he soon quitted for Queen's College, Oxford, whence he was elected Fellow of University College, July 23, 1696. Queen's College it should seem, was at that time a nest of Saxon scholars, and to this study Mr. Elstob applied himself with extreme diligence. At the request of Dr. Hicckes, he translated into Latin the Saxon homily of Lupus, and in 1709, he gave a Latin version of the Saxon homily on St. Gregory's day. His most considerable design was an edition of the Saxon laws, but the publication was prevented by his death. In 1702, Mr. Elstob had been presented by the dean and chapter of Canterbury, of which his uncle was prebendary, to the united parishes of St. Swithin, and St. Mary Bothaw, London. This was his only preferment; and with the very usual fate of men of letters attached to abstruse and unfashionable literature, he complains of evil days, poverty, cold patrons, and neglected efforts. He died aged 41 years, after a lingering illness, and lies buried under the altar table of his parish church of St. Swithin. *See May 30, 1756.*

April 19.—Dame Mary Calverly, assigned to trustees a bond for £1000., which sum she directed to be invested in the purchase of lands, the rents of which were to be applied in the maintenance of a charity to be called the blue coat charity school, which was afterwards established at Darlington.

October 6.—Thomas Forster, Esq. M. P. for Northumberland, with several gentlemen of the same county, favourable to the Pretender, met at a place called Greenrig. They made no stay there but rode immediately to the top of a hill called the Waterfalls, from whence they might discover any that came either to join them or oppose them. They had not been long there before they discovered the Earl of Derwentwater, who that morning had come from his seat at Dilston, with some friends, and his servants mounted upon his coach and other horses, and all very well armed. In coming from Dilston, they drew their swords on the bridge at Corbridge,

and in that state marched through that town. They halted at Beaufront, the seat of Mr. Errington, where there were several other gentlemen appointed to meet, who joined the earl of Derwentwater, from whence they proceeded in a body to join Mr. Forster. On the arrival of the earl of Derwentwater and his party, a short council was held, and it was concluded to march to a place called Plainfield, near the river Coquet, where they were joined by others who came straggling in, and having made some stay there, they marched to Rothbury, where they staid all night, and on the 7th their number still increasing, they marched to Warkworth, where they remained till Monday the 10th. On the Sunday Mr. Forster, who now stiled himself *General*, sent Mr. Buxton, their chaplain, to Mr. Ion, the parson of the parish, with orders for him to *pray for the Pretender as king, and in the Litany, for Mary, the queen mother, and all the dutiful branches of the royal family, and to omit the usual names of King George, the prince, and princess*, which Mr. Ion wisely declined; Mr. Buxton took possession of the church, read prayers, and preached. Meanwhile, the parson consulting his own safety went to Newcastle, and made the magistrates there acquainted with what had happened. At Warkworth, the rebels openly proclaimed the Pretender as king of Great Britain, &c. It was done by Mr. Forster in disguise and by the sound of trumpets and all the formality that the circumstances and place would admit. It may be observed, that Warkworth was the first place in England where the Pretender was prayed for and proclaimed as king of these realms. October 10, the Northumberland rebels marched to Morpeth, where several joined them. At Felton, they were augmented by 70 Scots horse, or rather gentlemen from the borders, which increased this party to about 300 strong, all horse. During the time the rebels were at Morpeth, Mr. Forster received intelligence that Holy Island castle was seized for the Pretender. The rebels were now in a body at Morpeth, promising themselves a fine harvest at Newcastle. Mr. Buxton taking upon himself the office of herald as well as priest, proclaimed the pretender. A party was sent and seized the post at Felton Bridge, and one Thomas Gibson, a smith of Newcastle, whom they apprehended and detained as a spy. Having by this time learned the defensible state of Newcastle, they marched to Hexham, where they were joined by some more Scots horse. From this place they all marched to a heath or moor adjoining Dilston; the seat of the earl of Derwentwater, where they halted a while to consider whether it would be advisable to proceed to Newcastle, but they returned again to Hexham, having had certain intelligence from some of their friends in Newcastle, that even before any regular troops entered that town, the magistrates and deputy-lieutenants, having first had some suspicion and afterwards positive intelligence of the design of the rebels, had effectually prevented it by walling up the gates with stone and lime, and raising what men they could, securing and imprisoning all papists and suspected persons, arming and encouraging the inhabitants for its defence, exhibiting a very commendable zeal in the

interest of the king, and the service of the town, and no less courage in their application to the defence of the place. They got the militia and train bands, who were ordered to muster on Killingworth-moor, near the town, to be taken into it for its better defence. At the same time the earl of Scarborough, lord-lieutenant of the county of Northumberland, repaired with his friends to Newcastle, and the gentry of those parts after his lordship's example, mounted their neighbours and tenants on horseback, so that the town was full of men, unanimously declaring for King George. An association was entered into by all parties, both churchmen and dissenters, for the mutual defence of their lives and estates, and a body of 700 volunteers were armed by the town for their guard; the keelmen also offered a body of 700 more to be ready at half an hour's warning, which was accepted at the same time, the association aforesaid was signed by the whole body of the loyal inhabitants. In the middle of these loyal preparations, a battalion of foot, and a part of a regiment of dragoons arrived at Newcastle, which dispelled the fears of the inhabitants. A few days after lieutenant-general Carpenter arrived, with Hotham's regiment of foot, Cobham's, Molesworth's, and Churchill's dragoons. The general now began to prepare for attacking the rebels at Hexham. During the stay of the rebels at this place, they had not been idle, for they seized all the arms and horses they could lay their hands on, especially such as belonged to those who were well affected to the king. Mr. Buxton went to the clergyman of the town and desired him or his curate to read prayers in the name of King James III., this he modestly declined, so Mr. Buxton officiated and performed the service. The night before they left Hexham they were all drawn round the cross in the market-place, where the pretender was proclaimed, and the proclamation fixed to the cross, which remained there several days after the rebels were gone. A part of the Scots rebels having by this time penetrated into Northumberland as far as Rothbury, the Northumberland rebels marched from Hexham on the 19th of October, and joined them; the whole then marched to Wooler, and after a few days stay there they marched to Kelso, where they continued from Saturday the 22d to Thursday the 27th, meanwhile General Carpenter, with the regiments under his command, had marched from Newcastle, and lay at Wooler on the 27th, intending to face Kelso the next day, but the rebels being apprised of the motions of the king's troops, held a council and determined to leave Kelso the next morning, which they did and marched to Jedburgh. The same day, General Carpenter entered Kelso, which determined the rebels to make a circuitous march through the mountains and enter England, by which means they would be three days in advance of General Carpenter. The rebels marched from Jedburgh on the 29th of October, and reached Hawick, thence to Langholm, and Longtown, which had been a long and dismal march, being only about nine miles from Carlisle. They halted all night at Longtown, and the next day entered England. Having learned that Carlisle was ready to oppose them, they marched to

Brampton, where Mr. Forster opened his commission to act as general in England, which had been sent him by the earl of Mar, then at Perth. General Carpenter by his forced marches having wearied his men, but more his horses for want of good forage, gaining intelligence that the rebels were gone over the mountains, which was impracticable for his heavy horse, returned to Newcastle, where having scarcely refreshed his troops, he received an express that the rebels were marching to Lancaster, whither he immediately proceeded, and arrived at Preston, where the rebels after defending that place for some time, surrendered to the king's troops. The noblemen and considerable officers were sent to London, and led through the streets pinioned and bound together. James, earl of Derwentwater, was beheaded on Tower-hill, Feb. 24, 1716. April 10th Mr. Forster escaped from Newgate, and the next day a reward of £1000. was offered for his apprehension, but he reached the continent in safety.* Of all the victims who perished in this rash enterprise, none fell more lamented than the young and generous earl of Derwentwater. It is generally supposed that the unfortunate earl's last request, that of burial with his ancestors was refused; and that the body was interred in the church yard of St. Giles's, Holborn. However, either a sham burial took place, or the corpse was afterwards removed, for it was certainly carried secretly by his friends, resting by day and travelling only by night, into Northumberland, and deposited with the remains of his father in the chapel at Dilston. Tradition still points out *Whiterocks*, near the city of Durham, as one of the places where the corpse rested, thus avoiding that city. In consequence of much conjecture having arisen with respect to the earl's body being at Dilston, search was made a few years ago, and the coffin broken open, when the body was found after a lapse of a century in a complete state of preservation. It was easily recognised by the suture round the neck, by the appearance of youth, and by the regularity of the features. The teeth were all perfect, but several of them were drawn by a blacksmith, and sold for half a-crown a-piece; at the same time portions of the coffin were taken away by the curious. In consequence of these ravages the vault was soon after closed up. The earl of Derwentwater was an amiable youth; brave, open, generous, and humane. His fate drew tears from the spectators, and was a great misfortune to the district in which he lived. He gave bread to multitudes of people whom he employed on his estate; the poor, the widow, and the orphan, rejoiced in his bounty. The earl had such assurances given him of his life by his friends, that he was under some surprise on being brought to execution. He left a paper behind him asserting the justice of the cause he died in. Charles Radcliffe, brother to the earl, who had also been in the rebellion, was arraigned at the Exchequer bar at Westminster, May 8, 1716, for high treason and pleaded not guilty. On the 18th of the same month, he was after a short trial found guilty, and on the 11th of December, he made his escape out of Newgate. He was

* See May 3, 1771.

taken at sea returning to assist in the rebellion of 1745, and beheaded on the 8th of December, 1746, *which see*. As before stated, Holy Island was seized for the Pretender by two men only, who planned and performed the following desperate exploit:—One Lancelot Errington, a man of an ancient and respectable family in Northumberland, and of a bold and enterprising spirit, entered into a conspiracy for seizing this castle for the Pretender, in which, it is said, he was promised assistance, not only by Mr. Forster, the rebel general, then in arms, but also by the masters of several French privateers. At this time, the garrison consisted of a sergeant, a corporal, and ten or twelve men only. In order to put this scheme into execution, being well known in that country, he went to the castle, and, after some discourse with the sergeant, invited him and the rest of the men, who were not immediately on duty, to partake of a treat on board of the ship of which he was master, then lying in the harbour; this being unsuspectedly accepted of, he so well plied his guests with brandy, that they were soon incapable of opposition. These men being thus secured, he made some pretence for going on shore, and, with Mark Errington, his nephew, returning again to the castle, they knocked down the sentinel, surprised and turned out an old gunner, the corporal, and two other soldiers, being the remainder of the garrison, and shutting the gates, hoisted the Pretender's colours as a signal of their success, anxiously expecting the promised succours. No reinforcement coming, but, on the contrary, a party of the king's troops arriving from Berwick, they were obliged to retreat over the walls of the castle, among the rocks, hoping to conceal themselves under the sea-weeds till it was dark, and then, by swimming to the main land, to make their escape. But the tide rising, they were obliged to swim, when the soldiers firing at Lancelot as he was climbing up a rock, wounded him in the thigh. Thus disabled, he and his nephew were taken and conveyed to Berwick gaol, where they continued till his wound was cured. During this time, he had digged a burrow quite under the foundations of the prison, depositing the earth taken out in an old oven. Through this burrow he and his nephew, with divers other prisoners, escaped; but most of the latter were soon after taken. The two Erringtons, however, had the good fortune to make their way to the Tweedside, where they found the custom-house boat; they rowed themselves over, and afterwards turned it adrift. From thence they pursued their journey to Bamborough castle, near which they were concealed nine days in a pea-stack, a relation, who resided in the castle, supplying them with provisions. At length, travelling in the night by secret paths, they reached Gateshead-house, near Newcastle, where they were secreted till they procured a passage from Sunderland to France. A reward of £500. was now offered to any one who would apprehend them; notwithstanding which, Lancelot was so daring as soon after to come into England, and even to visit some of his friends in Newgate. After the suppression of the rebellion, when every thing was quiet, he and his nephew took the benefit of the general pardon,

and returned to Newcastle, where he died about the year 1746, as it is said, of grief, at the victory of Culloden.

1716 (*July 13*).—John Hall, esq., a justice of the peace of Otterburn, in Northumberland, where his ancestors had been long seated, was executed at Tyburn as a traitor. He had been captain of a trainband in Queen Anne's time, but engaging in the rebellion of 1715, he was taken prisoner at Preston, in Lancashire. In his passage to the place of execution, on a sledge, he gave not the least tokens of dismay, but, on the contrary, seemed to have put on a bold resolution, and, in a kind of bravado, now and then tossed his hat round his head, as if he gloried in his punishment. He had been, for offences against the state, reprimanded five times.

October.—A party of Swiss dragoons, stationed in Newcastle, tempted by the wealth of the inhabitants, had formed the desperate resolution of plundering the town, but were prevented by the English soldiers quartered there.

This year, as a mason was digging for stone near Deer-street, beside Glanton Westfield, he discovered an empty stone chest, upwards of three feet long. Some time afterwards, three more chests, of a similar form, with covers, were discovered at the same place. There were two urns and some fine earth in each, with some charcoal and human bones, on which were the marks of fire. Near these were two other urns, one large, and the other very small; they were of ordinary pottery, and on being exposed to the air, fell in pieces.

The Carpenters' Tower (Wall-knoll-gate), so called because the incorporated company of carpenters, or shipwrights, of Newcastle meet in it, was one of the towers of the Roman wall. This company, in the above year, took down the upper part of it, which they rebuilt. Before taken down, this portion was much of the same size, model, and stone with the tower of Rutchester, in Northumberland, which was certainly one of the towers of the Roman wall.

1716.—In clearing away a heap of rubbish from an old foundation at Lanchester, in the county of Durham, was found a gold plate, extremely thin, weighing just two guineas. It is in the cathedral library at Durham. Numerous Roman altars, coins, &c. have been dug up at Lanchester. Near this place is a remarkably entire Roman camp. The church here, dedicated to the Virgin, is a neat structure, of considerable antiquity; the east window has been filled with painted glass.

1718 (*Jan. 18*).—Died, Sir Samuel Garth, poet and physician. He was born at Bolam, in the parish of Gainforth, in the county of Durham. He became fellow of the College of Physicians, and obtained much celebrity for his poem entitled "The Dispensary," which he published during the contention generated by the edict, passed in July 1687, for giving gratuitous advice to the neighbouring poor. His active benevolence and extensive charities deserve the greatest praise. He was buried in the church at Harrow-on-the-hill, near London. "His death," observes Pope, in a letter written shortly after, "was unaffected enough to have made a saint

or a philosopher famous, if ever there was a good christian without knowing himself to be so, it was Dr. Garth."

1718.—The Blue-coat school, in the city of Durham, was founded. In 1736, six girls were added. The numbers have since increased.

1719 (*Jan. 3*).—Died, Mr. Richard Coates, who left his whole effects to the parish of Ponteland for a charity school. Mrs. Coates, on the death of her husband, built the school-house.

June 13.—Richard Ward, aged 105, or more, was buried at Hartlepool.

September 5.—This year, Sunderland church was consecrated by John Robinson, bishop of London; Lord Crewe being then above 80 years old, Dr. Mangey, dean of Durham, preached the consecration sermon.

The Low meeting-house, on the north-east side of Hide Hill, Berwick, was built this year.

This year, Berwick barracks and governor's house were built. They have since been much repaired and improved. These were the first barracks erected in Great Britain.

1721 (*June 8*).—Being Thursday in Whitsunweek, the first gold cup, given by the corporation of Newcastle to be run for upon the town-moor, was won by Mr. R. Raikes.

September 18.—Died, Lord Crewe, bishop of Durham, and who was the founder of *Crewe's charity* at Bamborough. In 1715, the bishop's brother-in-law, John Forster, esq, M. P. for Northumberland, general of the English part of the rebel army, forfeited his extensive estates, of which Bamborough castle was the principal seat; Lord Crewe purchased the whole of the family possessions, then valued at £1,314. per annum, from the government commissioners, and, by his last will, settled the whole of the revenues on charitable uses.

December 21.—Died, Richard Lumley, Lord Lumley, first earl of Scarborough. This gallant officer commanded a regiment of horse, and had a principal share in gaining the victory of Sedgemore. He also contributed essentially to the success of the glorious revolution in 1688. The many offices of state which he filled with zeal and ability, prove that he was a nobleman of exalted talents and character. He was lord lieutenant and custos rotulorum of Northumberland, lord lieutenant of Durham, lord lieutenant and custos rotulorum of Newcastle, and vice-admiral of the sea coasts of Durham and Northumberland.

The charity school, at Stockton, was founded by voluntary contributions, and its revenues have encreased by the same means, and by considerable legacies and benefactions. In 1786, a building was erected at the north end of the town, including a dwelling-house for the master and mistress, and separate schools for the boys and girls. The late George Brown, esq., left £1,000. to this charity, with which the building was completed in its present handsome state.

This year, an alms-house for twelve poor persons, on Wearmouth-green, was endowed under the will of John Bowes, rector, but

the foundation is very trifling, scarce more than a habitation, rent-free.

1721 (*July 8*).—The river Wear rose higher than had ever been remembered. This was generally called *Slater's flood*, from one Slater, a bailiff of Durham, whose body was brought from St. Nicholas' parish for burial at St. Oswald's. The corpse was carried round by Elvet and Ratten Row.

This year, great part of the town of Wooler, in Northumberland, was destroyed by fire.

Walker estate was this year forfeited to the corporation of Newcastle.

The steam engine appears to have been in common use at the collieries in the north at this time.

This year, the bishop of Durham (Talbot) appeared on horseback, at a review, in the king's train, in a lay habit of purple, with jack boots and his hat cocked, and a black wig, tied behind, like a military officer.

1723 (*Aug. 12*).—At the assizes, at Newcastle, Mr. Edward Riddell, attorney, was tried for killing Captain Lilburn in a duel, in the Nuns' garden, in that town, and acquitted, no proof having been made that Mr. Riddell killed him.

This year, the steeple of St. John's church, in Newcastle, was pointed at the expense of the corporation, Matthew Featherstone, esq., mayor; and, the same year, the body was pointed at the expense of the parishioners.

1724 (*May 22*).—The church, at Hartlepool, dedicated to St. Hilda, being of very high antiquity, and having become ruinous, Bishop Talbot, on the above day, granted his permission to take down the roof, and cover the church with a flat roof, and the chancel was ordered to be rebuilt five yards within the walls; the pews were likewise to be taken away and replaced, and most probably the gallery at the west-end was erected at the same period. On entering an unseemly porch from the south, the eye is arrested by a Saxon, or, more properly a Norman arch, of extreme beauty.

October 21.—About eight o'clock at night, a dreadful fire broke out in the house of Mr. Joseph Partis, merchant, near St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, where, by the explosion of a barrel of gunpowder, twelve persons were killed, and about one hundred more or less wounded; one person was blown on to the leads of St. Nicholas' church; all the windows in the neighbourhood were also broken, but the blast extinguished the fire. Another fire occurred in these premises, August 28, 1799, *which see*.

December 14.—Died, in the 15th year of her age, Mrs. Elizabeth Bowes, wife of George Bowes, esq., of Durham, and only daughter of the hon. Thomas Verney, son of the Lord Willoughby, of Broke. December 19, the corpse of Mrs. Bowes was laid in state, in the Jerusalem chamber, and from thence interred in the vault called the duke of Ormond's vault, in King Henry the 7th's chapel, in Westminster Abbey, with great funeral pomp and solemnity. The corpse was received by the choir at the west door;

several noblemen and persons of note attended it to the grave, and the sub-dean officiated on the occasion.

1724.—This year, the High meeting-house, on the north side of the High Street, Berwick, was built.

There was a very wet summer this year, in the vicinity of Newcastle, and, for the most part, the crops of hay and corn were spoiled.

1725 (*May 8*).—The following copy of an advertisement, in the Newcastle Courant of this date, may be considered curious:—"On Friday in the race week, being the 28th of May, at the Assembly House, in Westgate, will be raffled for, 12 fine Fans, the highest three guineas, the worst 5s., at half a Crown per Ticket. Note, the lowest throw is to have the second best Fan, value £3., the other according to the height of the numbers which shall be thrown. There will be an assembly after for those who raffle." I am informed that the assembly-house at that time was the house at present occupied by William Peters, Esq.

July 14.—Jane Gibson, of Sunderland, left by will £1,400. to build and endow an Hospital for twelve poor persons. This hospital stands a little east of the church. It consists of a centre and two wings.

August.—At the assizes, at Durham, John Brown and Christopher Richardson, were tried before Mr. Baron Price, for attempting to poison William Coatsworth, esq., of Park-house, Gateshead, their master, by putting arsenic into his chocolate. They were both found guilty, and one of them was confined for five years, the other for three years, and every tenth day of June, being the day they attempted to poison their master, they were to be whipped ten times about the market place, and every Saturday after the quarter sessions for the peace, they were to stand in the pillory. One was Mr. Coatsworth's butler, the other his gardener.

August 20.—Thomas Charlton, of Birtley, north Tyne, in Northumberland, was executed at Durham, for robbing Elizabeth Whatoff, alias Charlton, of money and other things of value, firing a pistol at her, and committing other violences with intent to kill her, after which barbarous usage he left her for dead. It appeared upon the trial that he had induced this woman to marry him, when he had another wife living in London, so that he was prosecuted and found guilty both of bigamy and robbery. He said little in his defence, save only that he could not get rid of her and was forced to marry her.



September 20.—Sir William Blackett, bart. of Wallington, in Northumberland, was married to lady Barbara Villiers, daughter of William, earl of Jersey. On the 26th, when the news arrived in Newcastle, there were ringing of bells, bonfires, firing of guns, and other demonstrations of joy, which continued for two days. At Hexham, there were not only several barrels of strong beer consumed near a great bonfire, but the inhabitants were so vigorous in ringing, that

they broke the *Fray Bell*, which weighed three tons and a half. Shaftoe Vaughan, esq., a gentleman of the neighbourhood of Wallington, ordered Shaftoe Craggs to be illuminated by a great number of large fires, which were placed upon the most conspicuous parts of the Craggs. A large *punch bowl* was cut in the most elevated rock, which was filled with such plenty of liquor as was more than sufficient for the vast crowd of neighbouring inhabitants, who flocked thither at so uncommon an appearance, and drank healths suited to the occasion, as merrily as they were proposed by Mr. Vaughan, guns were fired, &c. &c. The licentious Thomas Whittell, wrote a nuptial poem on this occasion; he also wrote "Lines on the death of Sir William Blackett, bart.," which occurred on the 25th of September, 1728. On the 7th of October, his corpse was interred, with great funeral pomp and solemnity, in the church of St. Nicholas', in Newcastle:—First came the scholars belonging to St. Andrew's school, which was supported by his liberality, singing, all new cloathed in grey, with black caps; these were followed by twenty-six mourners, among whom were eight of his menial servants in deep mourning; after them twelve of his own stewards; next, the clergy of the corporation, followed by the vicar; then the led horse, and after it the banners; next came the corpse, the pall being borne by eight gentlemen, friends of the deceased; then followed the mayor and aldermen, in their robes, before whom were carried the sword and mace, in mourning, then the common council; after these, upwards of two hundred gentlemen, to whom had been given gloves; then followed about two thousand freemen, who had gloves given to them. The stewards of the respective companies, in addition to gloves, had mourning rings presented to them. The procession was closed by a vast number of mourning coaches, preceded by that of the deceased, in mourning, drawn by six horses, on the forehead of each of which was his crest, most curiously blazoned. Sir William Blackett, bart., was born February 11, 1689, was mayor of Newcastle in 1718, governor of the hoastmen's company from 1725 to the time of his death, and M. P. for that town from 1710, during which time he stood four contested elections.

1725.—This year, Berwick charity school was built. It is said to owe its rise to the benevolence of a Captain Bolton.

1726.—The porch of St. Andrew's church, in Newcastle, was taken down and rebuilt. Mr. Christopher Rutter, Mr. Fenwick Lambert, Mr. Thomas Shevill, and Mr. Percival Bell, churchwardens.

About this year, while a mason was engaged in clearing the earth from a rock in Hulne Park, about a mile to the north-west of Alnwick, in order to win stones, he discovered twenty brass sword blades, and sixteen spear heads, lying close to the top of the rock, about half a yard from the surface, and without any case or cover but the soil. Digging about a foot lower, on the hill side, he found forty-two brass wedges, or chisels, with a ring near the thicker end. From their edges being much battered and broken, they were supposed to have been employed by the ancient Britons



as chisels for cutting stone, and that they put a wooden shaft in the hollow end of them, and so drove them with a mallet. The shaft, when not employed, might be drawn out of the chisel, and by running a string through the ring on their sides, several of them might be tied together, and conveniently carried by the workman at his girdle, or otherwise, and one shaft serve them all. A little above the place where these instruments were buried, "1115" was deeply and rudely cut in the rock, but these figures cannot be supposed to have any relation to what was found below.

** red, deep and rude incisions appeared.*

1727 (June 7).—There was a great flood in the river Wear, which stopped all communication betwixt Shincliffe and the city of Durham. The water continued at its height for twelve hours. June 21, there was another high flood at night, but neither of them reached the height of *Slater's flood*.

June 19.—King George II. was proclaimed at Clifford's Fort, North Shields, on which occasion all the cannon were fired, and a triple discharge of small arms.

July.—William Stephenson, grocer, in Northallerton, was hanged at Durham, for the murder of Mary Farding, whom he threw into the sea, when pregnant by him, at Hartlepool, near the Maiden's Bower.

October 11.—The coronation of King George II. and Queen Caroline, was celebrated at Newcastle, with the greatest solemnity, the day was ushered in with the ringing of bells; the magistrates, in their scarlet gowns, accompanied by the common-council, clergy, and gentry, went from the Guild-hall to church, with music playing and cannons firing, and from thence proceeded to the mansion house, where a splendid entertainment was prepared for them; and, after dinner, they repaired to the market-place (Sandhill), where a fountain was erected which ran with wine, where the magistrates, common council, clergy, and gentry, drank the healths of the king, queen, and royal issue, with many other loyal healths, in presence of many thousand spectators; thence they went to the Guild-hall, where the healths were repeated with the like ceremony as above, and the conduit running wine all the time for the populace, whilst a great bon-fire, erected in the market-place, was burning, the cannons firing at each health: they afterwards returned to the mansion-house, where there was a ball for the ladies, and the evening was concluded with rejoicings, bonfires, illuminations, ringing of bells, and other demonstrations of joy.

1727.—Tanfield arch, in the county of Durham, a remarkable structure, was built by Colonel Liddell and the Hon. Charles Montague, the founders of the partnership now vulgarly called *The Grand Allies*, to obtain a level for the passage of coal-waggons. It is frequently called *Cawsey Bridge*, from its being built over the deep and romantic dell, of *Cawsey burn*, near Tanfield. The span of

the arch is 103 feet ; it springs from abutments about nine feet high, and being semicircular, the entire elevation is about 60 feet ; it cost £12,000. The architect was Ralph Wood, a common mason, who having built a former arch of wood, that fell for want of weight, committed suicide from a dread of this beautiful structure experiencing a similar fate. On a sun dial, on one of the piers, is the following :—“ Ra. Wood, mason, 1727.” This arch was built for a waggon-way to a colliery, which was set on fire, and has been long unwrought. It has been many years neglected, and is falling to ruins. The following cut represents this arch.



1728 (*Feb. 24*).—The following notice was given:—"Whereas the master and elder brethren of the Trinity-house of Newcastle-upon Tyne, formerly advertised of the bar being so very much altered, that the best of the bar was with the high light-house, a sail's breadth open to the southward. Now gives notice according to that advertisement, to all masters, pilots, and seamen, that the bar is become so very good, that they may now come in as formerly, have as much water or rather more than ever, and that they have lately been at a very great expence in building a new light-house, and obliged to rebuild and remove the high light-house; gives notice that both will be completed and lights kept in each by the 25th of March, 1728. The best and middle of the bar with the lights overend."

May 12.—In consequence of excessive rains, the rivulet which falls into the river Tyne, at Newburn, came down with such an overwhelming force, that it carried away a stable and an oat-kiln belonging to Mr. John Charlton, it also drove down John Parley's mill, together with his house and goods, the people in the mill narrowly escaping with their lives. Some large stones, weighing about two tons, were brought down by the force of the current. The water overflowed the ends of the bridge at Newburn, both arches being choked up by the trees, stones, &c., which had been torn away by the impetuosity of the water.

August 22.—There was a violent storm of wind at Newcastle, and the neighbourhood. It blew with such fury that a mill at the Cowgate, near Newcastle, was thrown down, in which were the mistress and a man servant; the latter was killed on the spot, and the former who was much hurt, was saved with difficulty.

September 21.—Died, Mr. Francis Place, the celebrated painter and engraver, a native of Dinsdale, in the county of Durham, aged 81. He was articled to a solicitor in London, with whom he continued till the year 1665, when the great plague obliging him to leave the capital, he at the same time quitted the law to indulge his inclination for the arts, which he followed at York till his death. He practised painting, designing, etching, and engraving in mezzotinto. As a painter he excelled in landscape, and the representation of fowls, flowers, and fish. Charles II. offered him a pension of five hundred pounds a year to draw pictures of the royal navy, but he declined the flattering proposal, because he could not bear confinement. His plates are mostly portraits and views, which last are much valued. There are three heads of this artist extant, one by himself, the face only finished; another by Murray; also one in Walpole's "*Anecdotes of Painting*."

November 13.—About eight o'clock at night, a very alarming fire broke out at Pipewellgate, Gateshead, which consumed the workshop belonging to Mr. Marley, tallow-chandler, wherein was a great quantity of candles, tallow, &c. It being an out building, and the wind being still, no further damage was done, although at the first it threatened destruction to a great extent.

This year, the font in Hartlepool church, made of Yorkshire

entrockal or encrinal marble, of a chaste and elegant shape, was the gift of George Bowes, esq.

1729 (*Aug.*).—At the assizes held in Newcastle, there was a trial between the corporation of that town and Sir Henry Liddell, respecting the paying of tolls, wherein a verdict was given in favour of Sir Henry. It was then customary for the judges to go in the town's barge, attended by the mayor and others of the corporation, to Tynemouth. On their return, Mr. Justice Page, who tried the cause, had some hot words with Henry Reay, esq., then mayor, relating to the trial, and thereupon the judge threatened to commit the mayor; and the mayor told the judge he would commit him, being then upon the water and in his jurisdiction. This squabble was the occasion of discontinuing the custom of going to Tynemouth. These aquatic excursions have been again resumed, and on one occasion a few years ago, one of the judges in stepping into or from the barge, slipped into the water. This gave rise to the very ludicrous local song, entitled, "*My Lord Size.*"

August 29.—Two felons, named Robert Thain, and Bartholomew Young, made their escape from Morpeth gaol. They had both been condemned for felony, but were ordered for transportation.

September 19.—A very violent storm of thunder and lightning visited Barnardcastle. The electric fluid set fire to a barn belonging to Mr. Heslop, which it consumed with the corn therein; it also tore some flags from the floor of a house belonging to Mr. Fielding of Startforth, and forced some of them out of doors; it splintered all the loft boards and broke a dresser, together with a close bed all to pieces, one of the posts of which was found struck through a joist of the house; the gable end was cracked, the chimney thrown down, and a hole made in the wall that would admit a man's body. The glass and pendulum were forced out of the clock, and what was very providential, two children playing on the floor of one of the rooms, one of them was thrown on to a bed at some distance, but it received no further damage than the fright.

This year, a very fine figure in stone of Neptune, presented by George Bowes, esq., was erected upon the octagon fountain in the market-place in the city of Durham.

January 10.—The following notice appeared:—"Newcastle upon Tyne, the churchwardens of the parish of Gateshead, with consent of the rector and twenty-four, have this week agreed with Mr. Edward and John Seller, bell-founders in York, for six new bells against May next, to be approved of by Mr. Michael Dawson, Mr. William Usher, Mr. William Turner, and Mr. George Mitford, all of Newcastle. The tenor, or greatest bell, will be about sixteen hundred weight. But although there are only six agreed for, yet two more will be cast at the same time to make the peal complete, in hopes that the contributions which at present are considerably short, may, before they are finished, amount to as much as will satisfy for them." The corporation of Newcastle, the Trinity-house there, and the family of Ellison, were the principal benefactors. The whole of the bells were new hung in 1773.

1730 (*March 31*).—A man having discharged a gun in the village of Ravensworth, the wadding fell upon a thatched house which took fire, and in a short time consumed that and several others.

July 6.—As Mr. George Moore was fishing in the river Tyne at Pipewellgate, Gateshead, he espied something in the water which seemed like a drowned dog, but the day being clear, and the sun shining, he thought he perceived a face, upon which he threw his line to it (which had but three hairs at the hook) and hooked a coat, by which he found it was a boy, but the hook loosing hold, he again cast his line and struck him in the temple and drew him to shore, and in less than a quarter of an hour he came to himself.

July 30.—The right worshipful Henry Reay, esq., then mayor of Newcastle, being informed of two Grecian princes and their attendants coming to that town, gave them an invitation to dinner, and sent his coach next day for them, attended by the sergeants with their maces, &c., and gave them a handsome entertainment, and a present of a purse of twenty guineas; next day he sent two of his officers as far as Stockton along with them.

This year were found at Benwell, near Newcastle, (the *Condercum* of the Romans), several urns with coins in them, which were most of them broken and squandered about by the ignorant diggers; but one of them was preserved and given to the library at Durham.

1731 (*Jan. 25*).—A printer of Newcastle was taken into custody for reprinting some parts of "The Craftsman."

February 11.—An attorney of Newcastle, named Parkinson, locked himself in his chamber, and, sitting by the fire, fell into it, and was burnt to death.

April 19.—That ingenious and eccentric poet and painter, Thomas Whittell, was buried at Hartburn in Northumberland. The place of his birth is veiled in obscurity, but that he was a Northumbrian there is no doubt. His poetical effusions have considerable merit; his "*Whimsical Love*," the poetic letter to the "*Razor Setter*," his "*Midford Galloway*," and "*The Rape of the Garter*," &c. are replete with comic humour; whilst, as a painter, the specimens at Belsay castle, Hartburn, Ponteland, and other churches in Northumberland, will remain lasting monuments of his superior abilities in that art. In the parish register of Hartburn, he is called "Thomas Whittle of East Shaftoe, an ingenious man." His poetical works were published in 1815 by the late Mr. William Robson, teacher of Cambo.

June 22.—James Henderson, a smith, went to morning prayers at St. Nicholas' church in Newcastle, and died in the church, where he was found sitting on his knees in one of the pews by those who came to prayers in the afternoon.

December 4.—Three prisoners, named James Hall, William Brown, and Alexander Pawley, made their escape from Morpeth gaol. For the exit of Brown, *See Aug. 6. 1743.*

December 12.—Died, at Morpeth, that learned antiquary, John Horsley, M. A., and F. R. S. He was a native of Northumberland, and educated first at Newcastle, and next in Scotland, where he took his degree of M. A.; after which he became a dissenting minister at Morpeth. His "*Britannia Romana*," folio, is a standard work on the remains of the Romans in this island.

1731.—This year an alms-house was erected in Gateshead at the charge of Mr. Thomas Powell of Newcastle, who left by will all his real and personal estates to the founding and endowing of this building. It is now used as the parish poor-house.

The town-hall at Alnwick was erected this year. In this hall the members of parliament for the county are elected and other public business transacted.

A large cross which stood at the bottom of the Flesh-market, near St. Nicholas' church in Newcastle, was this year pulled down. It had a leaden cistern at the top of it to hold the water, called the new water. Near this cross stood the cordwainers' meeting-house.

1732 (*Aug. 23*).—John Graham and James Graham, two notorious offenders, were executed at Durham for horse stealing. James Graham was baptized on the morning of his execution, at the church of St. Mary-le-bow, a part of the old gaol being within that parish.

September 10.—Thomas à Becket's chapel, which stood at the north end of Tyne Bridge, Newcastle, after being beautified and pewed, was on the above day, (Sunday, the whole body of magistrates of Newcastle going to it with the usual solemnities and formalities), set apart by the corporation of that town for a chapel of ease to the church of St. Nicholas.

This year the charity-school of the parish of All Saints in Newcastle, and a dwelling-house for the master, were built in the ground behind Jesus Hospital in the Manor Chare. Here is also the parish poor-house, and a house of correction, &c., (now dis-used), all built upon the ground formerly belonging to the Augustine Friars. The bells for All Saints' church which were cast out of the statue of King James II., were cast in this place, which, after the decay of the monastery, was called the Artillery Yard, from the townsmen performing there the exercise of the pike and gun.

1733 (*Feb. 16*).—Died, about four o'clock in the afternoon, the Rev. Henry Bourne, curate of All Saints in Newcastle. Mr. Bourne, who was the son of a tailor, after some time spent in school, was bound an apprentice to a glazier, in the Side, in Newcastle, and discovering a disposition towards letters, was, after he had served two or three years with his master, emancipated from his service, and again sent to school, and from thence he was transplanted, by the aid of persons who knew him, and admitted a sizar about the 1719 or 1720, in Christ's College in Cambridge, under the tuition of the Rev. Mr. Thomas Atherton, a fellow of that society and his countryman, where he continued till he commenced bachelor of arts; and quitting the college, returned to Newcastle, and was appointed curate of All Saints, where he officiated till his

death. He was the author of "*Antiquitates Vulgares*, 1725;" "*A Treatise upon the Collects, Epistles, and Gospels of the Book of Common Prayer*, 1727;" and "*The History of Newcastle*, 1736;" all printed at Newcastle by Mr. John White. The last was not published until three years after the author's death. In a note to the preface of this history, the author's demise is under a wrong year. The following is a copy of Mr. Bourne's advertisement, requesting assistance towards the compilation of his history:—" *Silver Street*, Sep. 17, 1731, *Newcastle*. As I have been for a considerable Time collecting Memoirs and Antiquities of the Town of *Newcastle* upon Tyne, and have made a pretty large progress therein, I am willing to complete the same in the most exact Manner. Knowing, therefore, that some ancient Names of Persons, Streets, and other Places, and Things, may be more truly ascertained by *Deeds* and *Writings* than otherwise; I publish This to desire the perusal of any such *Writing* as may be of use herein; I desire also any other Information, whether it relates to the *Churches, Chapels, Chanteries, Monasteries, Hospitals, Alms-houses, &c.* of this town, or to the Transactions herein during the Time of the Civil War, And the Favour shall be thankfully and faithfully acknowledged by me, *Henry Bourne*." Bourne's proposals for publishing his History of Newcastle by subscription was first advertised in the Newcastle Courant, Nov. 20, 1731. It appears from the preface that he had met with a deal of ill natured opposition while compiling this work. The following is a copy of the advertisement, announcing the History of Newcastle as nearly ready for delivery, Nov. 29, 1735:—" *These are to give Notice*, that the folio book, intituled, *Novum Castellum Super Tinam, Antiquum, & Hodiernum*; or, *The Ancient and Present State of Newcastle upon Tyne*, being now printed; those that are willing to Subscribe to the said Book, are desired to send in their Names, with the first Subscription Money, to the Printer of this paper, that they may be printed in the LIST of the SUBSCRIBERS. There are only 300 copies printed off. The Price to Subscribers, 10s. 6d., in sheets. N. B.—If any are desirous to have them neatly Bound, the Price in Calf Leather will be 2s. 6d., and in Sheep, 2s."

1733 (*Dec. 7*).—A *flying man* flew from the top of the castle of Newcastle into Bailiff-gate, and after that he made an ass fly down, by which several accidents happened, for the weights tied to the ass's legs knocked down several, bruised others in a dreadful manner, and killed a girl on the spot. This Icarus must have been an impostor, but John Bull is easily gulled.

This year, four persons received sentence of death at the *asizes* at Newcastle, and two men were executed upon a gallows erected on purpose, on the town-moor, where none had been executed for thirty years before.

1735 (*Feb.*).—There was found by the side of a little brook, on the east side of Corbridge, near the Roman wall, in Northumberland, by a smith's daughter, a most curious and valuable piece of antiquity in silver, weighing 148 ounces. Its shape like a tea-board,

20 inches long and 15 broad, hollowed about an inch deep, with a flat brim an inch and a quarter broad, neatly flowered with a vine full of grapes, &c. On the right as you look at it, is the figure of *Apollo*, with the bow in his left hand, and a physical herb in his right, under a canopy supported by two Corinthian pillars; near his left leg is a *lyre*, under it an *helestrope*, and at his feet a *griffin*; near the right hand pillar is another of a different form, with a globe or sun for its capital; against this sits a *priestess* on a stool, who looks over her shoulder at *Apollo*; below her feet is an altar, near which lies a stag on its back. The next figure to the *priestess* is another female, her head unveiled, with a spear or wand in her left hand, on the top of which is a ball, and near her is *Minerva*, with a helmet on her head, a spear in her left hand, pointing with her right to a man (supposed a hunter), on the other side of a large tree, with an eagle perched upon it; on *Minerva's* breast is a *Medusa's head*; at her feet an altar, and below it a greyhound looking up to the man who has a bow in his left and an arrow in his right hand; below him, at one corner of the plate, is a rock with an urn in the midst of it, from which flows a stream, perhaps designed to represent the river Tyne. The figures are raised, large, and well proportioned, and cast work without the least sign of a graver. It had under the middle of it a low frame about seven inches long, four broad, and one and a half deep, but this was broken off by the smith, though once all of a piece. There was an unintelligible inscription on the back of it, apparently scratched with a punch or a chisel. This curious piece of antiquity was bought by Mr. Cookson, goldsmith, in Newcastle, for £40. The duke of Somerset, as lord of the manor of Corbridge, made a claim of it; and on Mr. Cookson's refusing to deliver it, preferred a bill in chancery against him, and got an injunction to prevent his selling or melting the same down, or any ways defacing it. Mr. Cookson being desired by his friends to acquiesce and leave the whole to his grace's pleasure, his grace ordered Mr. Cookson to be paid back the money it cost, and over and above a present of money. It afterwards came into the possession of the duke of Northumberland, who married the grand-daughter and heiress of the said duke of Somerset. A print of it was engraved by Vertue, and published by Mr. William Shaftoe.

1735 (*Feb.* 22.).—Died, at Newcastle, Dame Jane Clavering, widow of Sir John Clavering, of Axwell Park, aged 66 years; a lady of most exemplary life and unbounded charity. Her ladyship left by will £50. to the poor of each of the four parishes in Newcastle, and £60. to the charity-school of St. John's parish. The residue of her estate amounting to £120,000. and upwards, devolved upon her ladyship's two daughters. Her corpse was interred in St. Nicholas' church, upon which occasion, pursuant to her own directions, an excellent sermon was preached by the Rev. Mr. John Ellison. The funeral procession was very magnificent, the pall being supported by eight gentlemen of distinction; before the corpse went the master and charity boys of St. John's, followed

by the beadles, several mourners in cloaks, and eight of her ladyship's servants in full mourning without cloaks, next after the corpse went a great number of gentlemen and clergy as mourners; then walked the mayor, and aldermen, with their regalia and ensigns of honour, and after them most of the gentlemen in the town and adjacent country, with scarfs, &c., after which followed her ladyship's coach in deep mourning, succeeded by many others.

1735 (*June 11*).—Being the anniversary of the accession of King George II., to the throne, the mayor of Newcastle, with the aldermen and sheriff, went in their formalities to St. Nicholas' church, and heard a sermon suitable to the occasion, from thence they returned to the mansion-house, with the town's music before them, where a grand entertainment was prepared for the officers of General Gore's regiment, then quartered in that town, and the principal gentlemen of the corporation. Money was given by the mayor to the soldiers, who fired, as the company drank severally the healths of his majesty and all the royal family, &c.

July 20.—Being Sunday, Ann Flower, of a very creditable family in Northallerton, perverted by her husband, Francis Flower, formerly a supervisor of Sunderland, but upon his turning quaker, discharged; went, in the time of divine service, to the great consternation and confusion of the congregation, or, as she termed it, assembly, into the church, at the latter place, and, though cautioned, nay positively forbid by the rector to dare to talk, or, as they call it, speak in the church, did, however, upon the conclusion of the church service, begin to hold forth. The rector, without further remonstrance, than, that it was the apostles' command, that a woman should not be suffered to teach in the church, directly led her out, thereby preventing a mob from cooling her frenzy in a neighbouring brick pond, which they began to threaten, though she said she was sent by the spirit.

October.—A child of James and Elizabeth Leesh, of Chester-le-Street, was played for at cards, at the sign of the salmon, one game, four shillings against the child, by Henry and John Trotter, Robert Thomson and Thomas Ellison, which was won by the latter, and delivered to them accordingly.

October 30.—Being the anniversary of his Majesty's birth-day, it was observed in Newcastle, by the ringing of bells, &c. About twelve o'clock seven companies of Colonel Handyside's regiment of foot were drawn up on the Sandhill, and there fired three volleys, and then the mayor and aldermen, with the lieutenant-colonel and other officers, drank his majesty's health, and then proceeded to the mansion-house, where there was an elegant entertainment; and after dinner, as their majesties, the royal family, and other loyal healths were drank, the company of grenadiers fired, and two guineas were given to each company in the regiment, and wine to every grenadier to drink his majesty's health.

November 8.—"The North Country Journal, or the Impartial Intelligencer," a newspaper in small folio, was printed and published in Newcastle, "by Leonard Umfreville, at the Head of the

Side." The earliest of this journal that I have seen is No. 67, published on the Saturday, and dated as above. Previous to this time it had been printed and published by Leonard Umfreville and Isaac Lane, whose dissolution of partnership is announced in this paper. It was afterwards printed and published "by Leonard Umfreville and Company." Leonard died on the 9th of March 1736-7, after which I find the publishers were "Thomas Umfreville and Company." Thomas was the brother of Leonard. See *Nov. 17, 1789.*

1735.—It evidently appears that there was a "Durham Courant" in existence at this time, and perhaps in 1736 and 1737. Mr. Matthew Thompson, of Durham, upholsterer, a very ingenious person, has an old book with extracts of various newspapers pasted in it, some of which prove this fact, by articles addressed to the Durham Courant. The publisher was probably Patrick Sanderson, bookseller, as he was connected with Christopher Hunter, M. D., (who reared the account of Durham published in Sanderson's name), and therefore advertisements of publishing the Bowes papers appear in these extracts.

1736 (*March 8*).—A new lodge of free and accepted masons was constituted at the sign of the Fountain, in Pipewellgate, Gateshead.

April 30.—Upon the arrival of the news at Newcastle, of the marriage of the Prince of Wales, and the princess of Saxe-Gotha, an universal joy and satisfaction appeared throughout the town, and the evening concluded with ringing of bells, drinking loyal healths, and all other possible demonstrations of joy. And on May 6th, the right worshipful Walter Blackett, esq., mayor, called a common-council on purpose to propose an address of congratulation to his majesty on that happy occasion, which was agreed to *nem. con.*, and on the following day his worship set out for London to present it. On the arrival of the news of the royal marriage at Morpeth, the prisoners in that gaol celebrated the same with all possible marks of joy and loyalty, by burning tar-barrels, illuminating all their windows, and drinking health to all the royal family. A general joy also appeared throughout the whole town.

June 8.—Thomas Tate, turnkey at Newgate, in Newcastle, was apprehended for feloniously taking in the night (some time before) several pieces of cambric and other things, from Mr. Durances's shop in Newcastle, and the same night he was committed to Newgate. He was discovered by a piece of cambric given by him to a child, to whom he stood god-father, which the mother of the said child went to sell or exchange at the said Mr. Durances's shop. July 15th, Thomas Tate, with Alexander Ogle, a felon, found means by the assistance of some accomplices, who had been concealed in the toll shop adjoining thereto, to break out of the dungeon of the said gaol, where they were chained to the wall, and made their escape by a hole in the wall, through the said toll-shop; and having got their large irons off, which were found in a field at some distance from the gaol, they returned and entered into the

dwelling house of Mr. Michael Dawson, keeper of the gaol, by a small cellar window, in which were two iron bars, which they forced out, and after picking the lock of the cellar door, went up one pair of stairs to the room where Tate had lodged when turnkey, and wherein was a servant sick in bed, and took out of the room a large wooden chest containing Tate's wearing apparel, which chest they brought down into the cellar, and bolted the door on the inside; and, after having dressed themselves with the best clothes belonging to Tate, leaving their old ones behind them, they made their escape out of the window undiscovered. July 18th, Tate and Ogle, were taken at the house of Thomas Carsop, (the father of Tate's sweetheart,) near Bellingham, in Northumberland. The same evening they were brought to Newcastle, and delivered to Mr. Dawson, the gaoler, who rewarded Mr. Michael Anderson, who took them, with ten guineas. Tate was chained down in the prison, but he told the gaoler it was to no purpose, as he could break through all, which he accordingly did, in less than a quarter of an hour, before two magistrates and the gaoler; upon which a guard was set over them both. At the assizes held in Newcastle, Aug. 1736, they were transported for seven years.

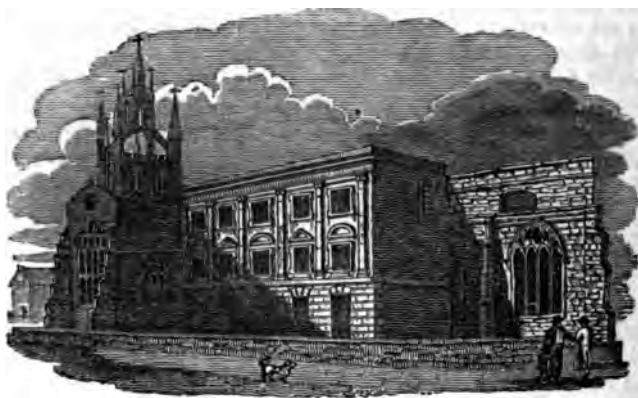
1739 (*Aug. 17*).—John Hall, *alias Tricky Hall*, stood in the pillory two hours at noon in the Flesh market, Newcastle, for erasing a receipt upon a bond, when he was severely pelted by the populace. The following are the particulars of the case as stated in the Newcastle Courant, August 14th, 1736:—Mr. Joseph Brown, late of Bolton, deceased, being indebted in his life time to Elizabeth Ferry, of Weetwood, in £150. by bond after his death, Nicholas Brown, of Bolton, esq., his executor, paid £116. of it to the said Ferry, in the presence of her brother-in-law, John Hall, otherwise called *Tricky Hall*, and a receipt indorsed upon the back of the bond for the same, both in words at length and figures, and to which Tricky set his name as witness; and the said Ferry living with the said Hall, and he having an absolute influence over her and her affairs, judging it to be a very easy way to come at one hundred pounds, razed out of the receipt the words one hundred and the figure 1, so the receipt then stood thus *17 July 1727, Received then of Mr. Nicholas Brown, the sum of ——— and sixteen pounds* (for he had neglected to erase the *and*) *in part of the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds, I say received 16.* Mr. Brown having had notice given that unless the one hundred and fifty pounds were paid he would be sued, averred upon his honour, he had paid one hundred and sixteen pounds of the one hundred and fifty pounds, as might be seen by the indorsement, but when it was looked upon and found one hundred razed out, Mr. Brown was also acquainted therewith; and he refusing to pay more than the remainder of the bond, a suit in equity was commenced for the payment of all the bond, but the sixteen pounds; which coming to a hearing, an issue was directed and accordingly tried, how much was paid on the bond. July 17, 1727, a verdict was thereupon found *that £116. was then paid*; and it manifestly appearing to the satisfaction of the whole

court and the counsel for Ferry, that Tricky having upon the said trial wilfully perjured himself, the judge ordered Mr. Brown, to prosecute him for it; and at the assizes for Northumberland, in August 1733, he was most plainly convicted of wilful and corrupt perjury, for which he was confined in the Fleet prison, from whence he was brought to Newcastle, and stood in the pillory as above stated, with his crime writ over his head, and then was remanded to prison to remain for seven years, unless he found sufficient sureties for his good behaviour, and also to pay a fine of ten pounds.

1736 (*Oct. 11*).—Three prisoners named Robert Hunter, *alias* Howham, Robert Gilmore, and William Clark, made their escape from Morpeth goal.

A woman at Bishop Auckland, in the county of Durham, and who was 108 years of age, got a new set of teeth.

This year, the market cross at Stamfordham, in Northumberland, was built by Sir John Swinburne, bart.



This year, Walter Blackett, esq., afterwards Sir Walter Blackett, bart., built the library on the south side of St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, for the reception of the valuable collection of books bequeathed to that church by the Rev. Dr. Thomlinson, rector of Whickham. He also settled the annual sum of £20. as a salary to a librarian, and £5. annually "to the buying of books for Dr. Thomlinson's library." The curious old vestry,* which was in unison with the church, was on this occasion torn away to admit this piece of patchwork. It is lamentable to think of the *gothic improvements* which this beautiful structure has at various times been degraded with. *See the end of the year 1783.*

1737 (*Feb. 19*).—Two felons named John Dodsworth and John

* See a scarce print of St. Nicholas church from the south, dedicated to Lord Crewe, bishop of Durham, who died in 1721. One of these is suspended in St. Nicholas' vestry.

Penman, escaped from Durham gaol, about ten o'clock at night, by knocking down the under-keeper of that prison, and using him in a most barbarous manner.

1737 (*April 5*).—There was an order of common council, that the public water should not be conveyed into the houses of any inhabitants of Newcastle, except those of the mayor, recorder, aldermen, sheriff, and town clerk.

August 5.—A servant belonging to Walter Blackett, esq. of Newcastle, having accidentally dropt a snuff of a candle among the straw in the stable, then going out and shutting the door, in less than twenty minutes, five of the valuable coach-horses were suffocated.

December 17.—The day of the funeral of Queen Caroline, was observed with great solemnity at Newcastle. At eight o'clock in the evening, the bells began to toll and continued till twelve. The day following the generality of the inhabitants appeared in mourning, and the magistrates' pew and the pulpit in St. Nicholas' church, were hung with black cloth.

Died at Wearmouth, Isabella Porteous, at the great age of 116.

1738 (*Dec. 11*).—In the evening a dreadful and alarming fire broke out in the shop of Richard Pyle, a blacksmith, at Rothbury, which consumed the same, together with his dwelling house and all the furniture, also the cow houses and stables, his wife narrowly escaping with her life. The fire communicated to and destroyed the house of John Selby, with the greatest part of his furniture, and above thirty tons of wool, and a great quantity of leather; also the house of James Hood, a barber, with part of the furniture; the house of George Potts, a butcher, with part of the furniture, and his shop and stable were destroyed; as were also the house of Robert Douglas, with all his furniture, stables, workshops, and a great quantity of oats and other corn, with a quantity of wool to the value of nearly £40. besides leather and other goods. All the houses were the property of Robert Douglas, who, by this catastrophe, was reduced to beggary. The fire was occasioned by Richard Pyle, carelessly laying straw in his shop, which took fire from the sparks as he was working at the anvil.

1739 (*Jan. 6*).—About one o'clock in the morning, a dreadful fire broke out in a workhouse belonging to Mr. Walton, merchant and tallow chandler, in Gateshead. The family were immediately alarmed, and not having time to put on their clothes ran into the street in the utmost confusion; soon after, the workshop and dwelling house were reduced to ashes; two other dwelling houses were nearly destroyed by the fire, which likewise did great damage to several families adjoining. The engines were ordered from Newcastle by the magistrates, as were the free-porters, to secure the property from being pillaged by the mob, but by the falling in of part of the house, the engines were rendered useless. The damage was computed at upwards of £2,000.

January 12.—Part of the ancient gate leading to the Castle Garth, in Newcastle, known by the name of the Black Gate, fell

down with a tremendous crash, and although several shops adjoined the same, none of the occupiers were injured.

1739 (*Jan. 13*).—About one o'clock in the morning, commenced one of the most violent storms of wind that had been known in or about Newcastle, for many years, which continued with unabated fury till near five. The roofs of several houses were blown quite away, and many stacks of chimnies fell in. A nurse, in a gentleman's family, who was in bed with an infant child, which escaped by being near the head, was so bruised from the breast downwards that she died in a few days. Great damage was sustained in the neighbourhood of Newcastle.

January 17.—A dreadful fire happened at Gunnerton, in Northumberland, supposed to be done by a candle setting fire to the straw in a byer belonging to Mr. Cook, wherein were nine cows, two oxen, and a bull. Mrs. Cook ran in and loosed the cattle from their stalls, upon which the bull rushed to the door, where being almost suffocated, he fell, which prevented Mrs. Cook's escape, so that she with the cows and oxen, were suffocated, and the byer with their bodies, burnt to ashes.

April 7.—The first number of a newspaper in folio, intitled "The Newcastle Journal," was published in Newcastle, by Isaac Thompson and William Cuthbert, at their office, "On the Head of the Side." The establishment was afterwards removed to the "Burnt House Entry," where this paper was regularly published until the death of Mr. Thompson, January 6th, 1776, *which see*.

April 21.—The following notice was given to the public:—"For the benefit of Thomas Topham, the strong man, from Islington, whose performances have been looked upon by the Royal Society and several persons of distinction, to be the most surprising as well as curious of any thing ever performed in England; on which account, as other entertainments are more frequently met with than what he proposes, he humbly hopes gentlemen and ladies, &c. will honour him with their presence at the Nagg's-head, in Gateshead, on Monday the 23d of this instant, at four o'clock, where he intends to perform several feats of strength, viz. :—He bends an iron poker three inches in circumference, over his arm, and one of two inches and a quarter, round his neck; he breaks a rope that will bear two thousand weight, and with his fingers rolls up a pewter dish of seven pounds hard metal; he lays the back part of his head on one chair, and his heels on another, and suffering four men to stand on his body, he moves them up and down at pleasure; he lifts a table six feet in length, by his teeth, with a half hundred weight hanging at the further end of it; and, lastly, to oblige the publick, he will lift a butt full of water." "Each person to pay one shilling." This "strong man" fell a victim to jealousy, as is proved by the following;—"August 10th, 1749, died, Mr. Thomas Topham, known by the name of the strong man, master of a publick house in Shoreditch, London. In a fit of jealousy, he stabbed his wife, then cut his own throat and stabbed himself, after which he lived two days."

1739 (*April 25*).—Between eleven and twelve o'clock at night, there was an excessive rain, accompanied with dreadful thunder and lightning at Newcastle and its neighbourhood. By the electric fluid, a ship at Willington-quay had its main-mast broke off about four feet from the deck, and thrown overboard, the remaining part being shivered into innumerable pieces; at the same time the river was put into a sudden concussion, heaving and tumbling vessels in an awful manner.

May 29.—Being the anniversary of the restoration of King Charles II. the foundation stone of the new steeple of St. Mary's church, at Gateshead, was laid, on which occasion, together with the solemnity of the day, an universal joy appeared amongst all ranks of people, by firing of guns, displaying flags, and other tokens. The four spires at the corners were taken down in 1764, and the roof altered.

June 16.—Died, Nathaniel Ogle, of Kirkley, in Northumberland, esq., one of his majesty's justices of the peace for that county. He had been an eminent physician abroad during the war, and acted in that character at home amongst his neighbours in a most charitable manner, visiting the sick and giving advice gratis. This gentleman's daughter, had, not long before his death, been married to Sir Chaloner Ogle, a famed British admiral.

September 4.—Michael Curry, for the murder of Robert Shevil, of Hartley, and John Wilson, for the murder of Barbara, wife of William Trumble, of Dunclawood, were, pursuant to their sentences, executed at the Westgate, Newcastle; they behaved decently, though they met their unhappy fate without any apparent fear of death. Neither of them made any speech or confession at the place of execution, but some time before, delivered what they thought proper in writing to the Rev. Mr. Wilkinson, which was afterwards printed by Mr. White. Curry owned that he was guilty of Shevil's murder, but denied that the deceased's wife urged him to it. Wilson could remember nothing of the murder, but supposed that it had been done in the midst of a tumultuous drunken affray in the house of the deceased, whose husband was a publican. Curry's body was taken directly from the place of execution to Hartley, and there hung in chains. Wilson's body was interred in the ground behind St. John's Church, in Newcastle. Mr. John White, printer of the Newcastle Courant, published a full and exact account of Curry's trial.

September 5.—Thomas Galilee was executed at Durham for horse stealing. He confessed his guilt, also his having committed several crimes of a like nature, and died penitent.

In the evening of the same day, a fire broke out in Pilgrim Street, Newcastle, near the Gate, by a child setting fire to some shavings. An old house and a loft containing a great quantity of hay were consumed before it was got under.

September 14.—William Smith was executed on the Town Moor, Newcastle, for the murder of his wife. He was born near Berwick upon Tweed, and was upwards of 53 years of age. He made

some small confession to the Rev. Mr. Wilkinson, but, at the place of execution, when the rope was about his neck, he declared that if any thing was printed as his dying speech, it would be false, for he had made none, and died seemingly hardened and unconcerned. He desired that his clothes might be given to his son, a lad about thirteen, who stood by him when he was executed.

1739 (*Sept. 18*).—A whale was found by a master of a ship floating off Huntcliffe-foot, and was towed to Sunderland. It was 64 feet long, and the girth of its body was 62 feet. The mouth opened upwards of 20 feet wide. The tail was 12 feet across.

October 5.—A fire broke out in a tallow chandler's shop at Sunderland, which entirely consumed the same, together with the house, but no further mischief was done.

October 27.—War was declared against Spain in the following manner in Newcastle. The proclamation being read on the Sand-hill by the sheriff, and declared aloud by his sergeant at mace to a great number of spectators, the mayor and aldermen in their scarlet robes, with the mace and other regalia; on the pronouncing his majesty's name, the sword-bearer drew the sword belonging to the corporation, and the proclamation being ended, the populace testified their joy by loud acclamations, firing of guns, &c. The same evening the mayor, aldermen, sheriff, and common-council, met at Baxter's tavern on the quay, and drank to the healths of the king and royal family, and success to the British arms.

October.—Great damage was done at Morpeth and the neighbourhood, by the overflowing of the river Wansbeck from excessive rains. Several houses were seriously injured, and a large piece of the mill-dam, near the bridge at Morpeth, was carried away. The foundation of Mr. Chater's new house was very much damaged, and at the warp mill, the water ran over the top of the door. Corn, trees, calves, sheep, hogs, &c. were borne down the river, by the strong current, in great numbers, and lost. The oldest person could not remember the water having been so high before.

November 2.—Died, at his seat at Heaton, near Newcastle, Richard Ridley, esq., an alderman and governor of the merchants' company in Newcastle, and an extensive coal owner. On the 5th, in the evening, his corpse was interred in St. Nicholas' church. The hearse, which was covered with escutcheons and drawn by six horses, was preceded by 86 of the deceased's tenants and agents on horseback, two and two, with mourning gloves, and three servants; the hearse was followed by a retinue of mourning and other coaches. In this manner the corpse was conveyed from Heaton, to Mr. Ridley's house on the Quay, Newcastle, where the company were invited, and where the corpse was taken out of the hearse, and from thence carried to the church, the pall being covered with escutcheons and supported by the eight following gentlemen:—Sir James Clavering, bart., Walter Blackett, Edward Collingwood, William Ellison, Nicholas Fenwick, Hilton Lawson, Thomas Bigge, and William Coulson, esqrs. The master of the charity school, with a scarf, &c. leading the charity boys of St. Nicholas, went foremost

in the procession; after whom came five beadles, who were followed by twenty men in cloaks, walking two and two, betwixt these and the corpse walked three couple of servants in mourning; behind the corpse walked twenty-four chief mourners, two and two; these were succeeded by the regalia of the town in mourning, borne by the proper officers, who were followed by the mayor, aldermen, &c. with scarfs and black gloves; next to these walked the clergy, with scarfs, who were followed by the relatives of the deceased in scarfs; to these succeeded the wardens, and secretary of the merchants' company, with gloves, two and two, and closed with the beadle in a scarf, &c. Then followed a multitude of gentlemen and tradesmen, with gloves; after these came the eighty-six tenants and agents on horseback, as before. During the procession through the town, half-minute guns were fired, and a solemn silence was observed by the vast crowd of spectators, and also the rejoicings of the day (being the 5th of November), were suspended. When the corpse entered in at the west door of the church, a piece of solemn music was performed upon the organ by Mr. Avison. After the funeral ceremony was over, the bells rung a mourning peal, which closed the solemnity of the day.

1739 (*Dec. 14*).—A fire, occasioned by the snuff of a candle took place in a corn mill, without Pandon Gate, Newcastle, which entirely consumed the same, together with a large quantity of corn, &c.

December 28.—A violent storm began at Newcastle and the neighbourhood which continued several weeks with uncommon severity. A great quantity of keels lying near Sandgate, broke loose by the united efforts of the wind, tide, and masses of ice, and drove directly upon the ships and boats lying at the Quay, twelve wherries were sunk, part of them staved to pieces, and most of the ships were driven from their moorings and received great injury by running foul of each other. Immense masses of ice were heaped up in the river, which had a melancholy winter prospect, the Tyne being completely frozen up and the intire navigation stopped, so that tents were set up and various diversions exhibited upon the glassy surface. A great many people came daily from distant parts of the country to view this uncommon scene, the Tyne looking more like a fair than a navigable river. The frost which had commenced the preceding month, was, during January, 1740, as severe as ever. The air in some of the coal-pits could not be borne by the workmen without a fire at the bottom. January 12th, an accident happened at Tanfield colliery, by one of those fires which being ordered to be put out by the boys after the workmen had left, they spread it abroad carelessly among some straw, which immediately took fire, the flame of which instantly caught hold of two casks of oil standing very near the place, which, setting fire to the coal, burnt with such violence and rarefied the air to such a degree, that by a plentiful supply of fresh air from the adjacent pits, that pit was changed into a terrible bellowing volcano, thundering out eruptions of hot cinders of considerable weight into the open air to an incredible height and distance. This accident hap-

pened about two o'clock in the morning, and continued increasing for about seven hours, when the pits were all ordered to be closed in, which extinguished the flames. Several who attempted to put a stop to the fire very narrowly escaped with their lives. January 14th, John Fenwick, esq., of Bywell, made a grand entertainment on account of his son's birth-day, and had a large sheep roasted whole, in a tent erected for that purpose upon the ice on the river Tyne, with plenty of strong liquor for the populace, who ate and drank very merrily, with huzzas and firing of cannons; also Mr. Fenwick's coach and two horses drove up and down the river and across, with several gentlemen and ladies in it, to the great surprise of all present. February 11th, the Tyne being still frozen over, the principal coal-fitters under Sir Henry Liddell, bart., Edward Wortley, and George Bowes, esqrs., set to work about 200 men to cut away the ice and open the channel from below Newcastle to their staiths above bridge, being nearly a mile and a half in length, in which hazardous undertaking no fatal accident happened. In about a week a passage was opened and keels loaded, by which means, ships, which had been waiting for coals were despatched to London and other places. During this period of extreme rigour, the wants of the poor were not passed unnoticed. Walter Blackett, esq., M. P., for Newcastle, ordered £350. to be distributed in the following parishes, viz. in Newcastle, St. Nicholas' and St. John's £40. each, All Saints' and St. Andrew's, £60. each, and in Gateshead, Hexham, and Hartburn, £50. each. Many other gentlemen in the two counties extended the hand of benevolence. February 18th, an immense quantity of ice was brought down the Tyne, which, with the weight of the water, broke away a great part of the dam at Bywell. The damage was computed at £1,000. This ice continuing its progress, and meeting with the tide at Newburn, about four miles above Newcastle, was in great part thrown on to the low grounds, and the rest lay gorged in the channel of the river, from whence it continued fixed to where it had been industriously cleared away to the staiths. The success attending the clearing away of the ice from the staiths of Sir Henry Liddell, bart., &c., induced an attempt to open the river to other staiths, but two men being unfortunately drowned, stopped the proceedings. The gentlemen of the coal-trade on the river Wear commenced opening a passage to their staiths, in the same manner as had been performed with success at Newcastle. The ice on the river Wear, at Durham, was so strong, that carriages with oxen and horses daily travelled thereon, and a tame fox was hunted upon the river, which afforded great diversion, after which three tar-barrels were burnt below Framwellgate bridge. Towards the close of the month of February, the rivers which had been blocked up since December, were cleared of their ice by a gentle thaw without damage, and trade was again resumed.

1740 (*March 18*).—On the arrival of the news in Newcastle of Admiral Vernon's taking and reducing to obedience Porto-Bello, there were ringing of bells at the several churches all night, and

other demonstrations of joy, &c. The loyalty of one man in particular must not be omitted:—Mr. Andrew Swadale, a very loyal and *weighty subject* (weighing near 23 stones), upon hearing the news, ordered a bon-fire, consisting of three large hogsheads and tar-barrels, to be burnt before his door, at the same time he came out with a large drawn backsword in his hand, and challenged the kingdom of Spain, or any that would take that kingdom's part, to fight him, upon which were three loud huzzas, success to his majesty's arms by sea and land: after which he broached a hogshead of beer for the populace, and so concluded the night with loyal healths. At Hexham, on the 19th, on hearing of Admiral Vernon's success, Sir Edward Blackett, bart., invited to his house the gentlemen and principal inhabitants of the place, to drink his majesty's health, and success to the British arms; from whence they proceeded to the market-place, where a bon-fire was prepared, and the healths repeated with great joy and acclamations by the people, for the victory over the insulting Spaniards.

1740 (*April 12*).—Matthew Fenwick, a butcher's apprentice, for a wager of 20 guineas, ran from Newcastle to Sedgfield, in the county of Durham, a distance of 25 miles. The time allowed was four hours, but he won with ease four minutes within the time.

April 29.—Some school boys paring off a green sod in the road between St. Helen's and West Auckland, found about 45 old pieces of silver, supposed to be about 200 years old, some of which looked very fresh.

May 29.—The body of Mrs. Drage, wife of Theodore Drage of Bishop Auckland, esq., was removed from thence to be interred at York. As the procession was rather uncommon, it may not be uninteresting. Soon after the decease of Mrs. Drage, the corpse was dressed in her wedding suit, with a pair of new slippers on, and put into a leaden coffin which was inclosed in another of deal or fir, and another of fine wainscot (brought from London) contained the other two. On the above day, about six weeks after her death, the procession began in the following order:—two men on horseback, in black, with caps and favours, two kettle drums in mourning; a horse led by a man on foot; two trumpeters, the trumpets hung with rich gilt escutcheons of silk; a man on horseback displaying a very large gilt escutcheon on a black pole; two singing men from the choir at Durham; two men in black cloaks, caps and favours, bearing each a pole covered with black silk; the hearse drawn by six horses, three men on horseback on each side, in black, with caps and favours; two men behind after the same manner; the undertaker (Mr. Watson from Durham); the mourning coach drawn by six horses, in which were Mr. Drage, his daughter, and two friends; and, lastly, two men on horseback, in black, with caps and favours. The procession passed very slowly through all the streets of Bishop Auckland, during which time the trumpets sounded and the drums beat in a solemn manner. The interment took place at York between nine and ten o'clock in the evening, as follows:—Four branched lights, two and two; two

kettle drums ; two trumpets ; a branched light ; two pole bearers ; a man servant between two branched lights, two men in cloaks ; two branched lights ; master of the boys ; boys of the choir two and two ; singing men two and two, with branched lights on each side ; canons two and two ; two branched lights ; two vergers ; prebendaries two and two, with branched lights on each side ; the corpse with the pall flung up, and lights on each side ; child and maid ; mourners with lights on each side ; lastly, two branched lights closed the procession.

1740 (*June 9*).—A great riot began at Newcastle, on account, as it was pretended, of the dearness and scarcity of corn. The militia of the town was instantly raised, and upon promise given to the rioters that they should have grain at a much lower rate, the mob was pacified for that day. Next day, Mr. Alderman Ridley, at the head of the militia, gave notice to the multitude, that the corn-factors had set a price on their grain, and had declared, that every one that applied should have it at the fixed price ; the factors themselves also made proclamation by the bell-man, that they would sell at the following prices, viz. :—Wheat at 7*s.*, rye at 5*s.*, oats at 2*s.* 6*d.*, and meslin at 5*s.* 6*d.* per boll ; they received this information with satisfaction and applause. On the 21st following, the several pitmen, keelmen, and poor of the town, having made application for corn at the price that had been promised them, found, to their disappointment, that the factors kept their shops shut up, and that most of them had absconded through fear ; upon which the mob proceeded to plunder the granaries. On the 22d, 23d, and 24th of June, nothing material happened, but the discovery of a vessel going off with rye, which was stopped, and some of the grain sold to the poor at the stipulated price. On the 25th, the militia very imprudently were disbanded ; a measure which seems to have had no inconsiderable share in tempting the outrageous multitude to the horrid mischiefs of the ensuing day, when they assembled in immense numbers on the Sandhill, then the market place of Newcastle, where also the mayor and several aldermen, and some other gentlemen, met at the Guildhall, to consult what was best to be done on so pressing an extremity. The mob, unawed by the presence of any military force, and intent upon mischief, grew more and more unruly ; and a gentleman venturing out to inform them that it had been agreed upon that the poor should be supplied with rye out of a ship at the Quay, was knocked down and much wounded. Upon this, the rioters, with more justice than prudence, were fired upon, and one of them having been killed, and several dangerously wounded by the shot, the rabble instantly fell upon the gentlemen assembled in the hall, and, having wounded most of them, proceeded to outrages that threatened the destruction of the whole town. They did great damage to the wood work in the town's court, they spoiled and tore every part except the faces of two good whole length pictures of Charles II., and James II., and broke all the windows towards the Sandhill. After having ransacked the town court and chamber, they destroyed

many of the public writings and accounts, they likewise carried off a large sum of money belonging to the corporation. Afterwards they patrolled the streets, when, finding all the shops shut up, they threatened, with horrid execrations, to burn and destroy the whole place. In the evening, three companies of Howard's regiment, under the command of Captain Sowle,* who had marched that day from Alnwick, entered the town and soon dispersed the rioters, forty of whom were seized upon and committed to prison; of which number seven were afterwards convicted at the following assizes, and transported each for seven years; their names were William Keed, *alias* Kid, *alias* Keedy; William Sopit; Robert Hatherick, *alias* Hatherwick; Thomas Grey; James Harriot; Thomas Wilson; and Jacob Trotter. This dreadful affray is said to have cost the corporation of Newcastle upwards of £4,000. In Alderman Hornby's M.S. notes to Brand I find the following account:—"What Mr. Brand calls the militia, were a number of volunteers who associated for the preservation of the peace of the town. They consisted of some middle-aged gentlemen of different professions, but for the most part of young men, several of whom were merchants' apprentices, and on account of their wearing white stockings, were called and are still remembered by the name of the *White Stocking Regiment*. The late Mr. Ridley was their only officer, and as it was supposed, lest he should gain great popularity, Mr. Cuthbert Fenwick, the then mayor, ordered them to forbear assembling; the consequence was, that the populace became very riotous, and the town was in danger of being plundered and burnt, to prevent which, the volunteers re-assembled, and in course of protecting the magistrates and the delivery of corn from a ship, fired upon the mob, whereby one man was killed, upon which the rioters became more outrageous, broke into the Guild-hall, almost destroyed the pictures of Charles and James II., plundered the town's hutch of near £1,200, and probably would have set fire to the town, if a party of soldiers had not fortunately arrived by a forced march from Morpeth." I have often heard an old lady, a centenarian, who was in the habit of visiting my parents, relate the particulars of this riot. She invariably called these volunteers "The White Stocking Regiment." See August 1, 1808.

1740 (*June 14*).—The people assembled in great numbers at the city of Durham, and offered 8s. per boll for wheat, which being refused by the farmers, they seized the corn, on which blows ensued, and several on both sides were wounded. June 20th, a great mob assembled at Sunderland, who seized all the wheat they could lay hold of, in order to sell it at 4s. a bushel.

* A few weeks after this affray, the mayor, aldermen, and common council of Newcastle, voted the freedom of that corporation to be presented to Captain Sowle, in a gold box, value 50 guineas, as a compliment for his so seasonably entering that town on the 26th of June, and putting a stop to the outrageous riot that was so furiously carrying on at that time. They likewise ordered a plate value 40 guineas to be presented to Captain Fielding; one of 30 guineas to Ensign Hewitt; and ten guineas to each of the three companies.

1740 (*July 2*).—Died at St. John's college, Cambridge, Mr. Thomas Baker, a celebrated scholar and English antiquary. Mr. Baker was born at Crookhall, in the county of Durham. He was educated at the free-school of Durham, and afterwards removed to Cambridge, where he was admitted pensioner of St. John's College, June 13th, 1674. He took his first degree in 1677, was elected fellow of St. John's college in 1679, proceeded in 1681, and was ordained deacon, December 20th, 1685. Mr. Baker having become chaplain to Lord Crewe, bishop of Durham, he was collated by that prelate to the rectory of Long Newton in June, 1687, but having refused to allow his curate to read King James's declaration of liberty of conscience, and also having refused the oaths to the prince and princess of Orange, he surrendered the rectory of Long Newton. He now saw without regret the avenues of power and wealth for ever closed upon him, and retired with content and cheerfulness to his chambers at St. John's, where he was still protected in the enjoyment of his fellowship by the interposition of some unseen but powerful patron. In this retirement, Mr. Baker composed his "*Reflections upon Learning*," which were published in 1710. About the same time Mr. Baker re-published Bishop Fisher's Funeral Sermon for Margaret, countess of Richmond. His remaining years were passed in the unvaried tranquillity of a literary life within the precincts of a college. Temperance and regular habits protracted his existence to his 84th year. On the 28th of June, 1740, he was seized with a paralytic stroke, and expired without much pain or sickness, on Wednesday, the 2d of July following.

July 6.—The following prisoners made their escape from Morpeth gaol, viz. :—George Scougal, William Nelson, Archibald Henderson, Margery Yeoman, and Margaret Wilson.

September 8.—Arose a most terrible storm of wind at S. W., which did great damage on the river Tyne, by sinking keels, and driving ships and boats from their moorings. At Shields, the Prince Frederick of Guernsey, was driven from her anchor, and ran foul of several ships, some of which shared the same fate; and by the impetuosity of the wind on her larboard, she heeled gunwale in. The starboard midship port being open to take in coals (having at that time four keels on board), the water filled her so quickly that she sunk immediately in the middle of the river. A custom-house officer, named Harbottle, two men, and a boy, perished, two of them in the cabin, the swell being so great, that none could venture to give them any assistance.

October 9.—Died at Hebburn, near Jarrow, George Liddell, esq., in the 64th year of his age. He was M. P. for Berwick upon Tweed, and many years governor of the Hoastmen's company in Newcastle.

November 19.—James Clarkson, a notorious thief and house-breaker, was hanged at Berwick. Before he was turned off, he acknowledged the justness of his sentence, but was not daunted in the least.

1740 (*Nov. 29*).—In the Newcastle Courant, of this date, the first copper-plate engraving done in Newcastle was advertised to be published by Joseph Barber, music and copper-plate printer on the Sandhill. The subject was “A curious DRAUGHT of the famous manag’d HORSE call’d the MARBLED PERSIAN, made a present of to the Chevalier de St. George’s eldest son, by the (late) Duke of Or—d, now in exile; engraved by the best hand in England.” He says in his proposals, “Tis humbly hoped that gentlemen will encourage the undertaking, it being the first of the copper-plate kind ever performed in Newcastle upon Tyne.” In the same paper, for February 14th, 1741, it was announced as being ready for delivery: Price one shilling.

December 21.—Died at his house, at Flatts, Thomas Allan, esq., one of the principal coal-owners on the river Wear. He was a gentleman whose integrity and worth placed him in the highest estimation, and whose good nature and generosity endeared him to all his acquaintance. He was earnest in promoting the good of his country, and particularly that great support of it, its trade, in the cause of which he embarked his fortune, and applied a most laudable industry, manifesting in his affairs an uncommon degree of elegance and propriety, and as his life was adorned with every virtue that dignified human nature, so his death was universally a most melancholy occasion of sorrow. Mr. Allan was son of Thomas Allan, esq., of Newcastle: a branch of the Allans of Grange. Nov. 19th, 1752, died Mrs. Allan, relict of Thomas Allan, of Flatts, esq.

The earl of Tankerville, was this year appointed lord-lieutenant of the county of Northumberland, and of the town and county of Newcastle.

This year, Mr. John Bird, mathematical instrument maker, in London, a native of Bishop Auckland, in the county of Durham, invented an instrument for finding the latitude at sea, which surpassed all others previously used.

1741 (*Jan. 21*).—The gaol of Newgate, in Newcastle, was broke in the night, and eight felons made their escape in their irons, viz.:—Peter Hartley, James Gibb, David Steel, Christopher Forster, Thomas Greenfield, Anthony Hatherwick, William Scurfield, and Richard Bentley.

March 3.—William Smith, a smuggler, made his escape from the gaol of Newgate, in Newcastle.

March 10.—A fortnight fair for cattle and sheep was ordered to be held at Hexham, commencing on this day; also two leather fairs annually, the first on the 29th July, and the other on the 29th of October.

March 19.—Thomas Gibson, smith, was disfranchised, for an audacious attack upon Edward Collingwood, esq., mayor, at the public guild, at Newcastle, by seizing his rod, attempting to wrest it from him, and breaking that badge of public authority in his hand.

April 17.—The wife of a farmer named Charlton, at Fishburn, near Sedgelyield, in the county of Durham, took an opportunity to

kill her son, about fourteen years of age, with a cleaver, after which, with the same instrument, she killed her two younger children, then stabbed herself under the ear, of which wound she instantly died. All this work of destruction was accomplished while her husband was endeavouring to get a cow out of a ditch, Coroner's verdict, *lunacy*.

1741 (*April 21*).—The gaol of Morpeth, was broke, and four criminals made their escape, viz.:—William Clarke, *alias* Campbell, Alexander Cant, George Patterson, and Thomas Burnside.

May 20.—On the receipt of intelligence that Admiral Vernon, had taken several forts in the West Indies, great rejoicings by illuminations, bon-fires, ringing of bells, &c., took place in the various towns and villages, in Durham and Northumberland.

October 12.—Thomas Watson, esq., M. P., for Berwick upon Tweed, and commissary-general of his majesty's foreign forces, under the pay of Great Britain, arrived at Berwick from Hamburg, and the following day, the mayor and aldermen with the principal freemen of that borough, waited upon their representative, and welcomed him home, the bells were rung and every other demonstration of joy was exhibited on the occasion.

1742 (*Jan. 23 and 27*).—A man named John Rule, stood in the pillory at Berwick, which sentence he received at the quarter sessions, on the 18th of January, for unnatural crimes.

January 27.—George Clark, joiner, better known by the name of "*Skipper Clark*," a gormandizing eccentric character of Newcastle, for a wager ate at a public house, a leg of mutton, 10lbs. weight, a three-half-penny loaf, and drank six pints of ale; in the last half pint of which was put a half-penny worth of snuff, which he completely performed in two hours.

January 28.—The wind which had been boisterous for some days, rose on the evening of this day to a tempest, with dreadful thunder and lightning. The roof of Alderman Ridley's house, in Westgate Street, Newcastle, was split, whereby a stack of chimnies fell in, but no person was hurt. It being spring tide, the strong current of the river Tyne, broke loose several of the ships at Shields, which did great damage both to the ships and keels. A house belonging to Mr. James Gray, was blown down and most of its contents destroyed. About eight o'clock an awful flash of lightning burst from the clouds, by which captain Hammond of Yarmouth had the masts and sails of his ship fired in an instant, and all burnt. But the most melancholy accident happened at a farm belonging to Messrs. Mather and Coulson, called the Rising Sun, near Killingworth, about four miles from Newcastle, where the dwelling-house, barns, byers, stables, and stacks, were all fired by the lightning, and, through the vehemency of the wind, soon consumed to ashes, there were horses, oxen, and cows, to the number of 22, all burnt to death; and also 22 bolls of corn, nearly 100 bolls of oats, and 15 corn stacks, were utterly destroyed. Several persons travelling in different roads upon Killingworth moor, had the manes and tails of their horses singed, and one gentleman's

whip was two or three times fired by the lightning, yet nobody received any hurt.

1742 (*Feb. 27*).—Mr. Hayes, one of the free-porters of Newcastle, set out on a journey to London, and on the next day at night, arrived at Northallerton. After supper he went up to his bed in seeming good spirits, but when the servant went to bring away the candle, he was shocked to find him with his belly ripped open, and several parts cut away. On asking him the reason of so rash an act, he replied, *if your hand offend you, cut it off*, and immediately expired.

April 19.—Died, in St. John's parish, in Newcastle, Jane Ogle, a poor woman, aged 106 years. She retained her memory to the last.

May 29.—The church of Houghton-le-Spring, being to be repaired, the churchwardens advertised for joiners, plumbers, and masons, to contract for the same. They were to "meet the churchwardens at the house of John Robson, in Houghton-le-Spring, on Monday the 7th of June next, there to treat about the several works, and they who will undertake to do them substantially and cheapest, will be employed."

August 26.—A fire broke out in the dwelling house of John Davison, at Hartley, in Northumberland, by which not only the said house, but those also of Thomas Crawford, Thomas Stewart, Ralph Sanderson, and Mary Harrison, adjoining, with every thing they contained, were consumed.

September 1.—The free-school at Hartlepool was founded, as appears by the will of John Crooks, of Hartlepool, gent., dated as above.

September 24.—John Todd, for sheep stealing, and William Simpson, for felony, were executed at Morpeth, pursuant to their sentences at the assizes in Newcastle, the preceding August.

December 20.—The foundation stone of the Orphan House (Methodist Chapel), in Northumberland Street, Newcastle, was laid by the Rev. John Wesley, who says in his journal, that "many were gathered from all parts to see it, but none scoffed or interrupted while we praised God, and prayed that he would prosper the work of our hands upon us. Three or four times in the evening I was forced to break off preaching that we might pray and give thanks to God." The methodists occupied this building until Brunswick Place chapel was finished, February 29d, 1821, when they removed there, it being considerably larger and more adapted to the taste of the times. The old building was of the most simple description; the present one has an organ, and is altogether fitted up in a very elegant manner. From the plainness of the exterior and interior of the Orphan-house, it appears to have been Mr. Wesley's opinion, that a place of worship could not be too simply decorated and was, "when unadorned, adorned the most." This building is now the Infant School.

This year, the mayor, and common-council of Newcastle, gave

£50. and the Trinity-house £10. towards the propagation of the gospel in foreign parts.

1743 (*Jan. 18*).—About five o'clock in the morning, a dreadful explosion took place at North Biddick colliery, on the river Wear, occasioned by the workmen holeing into a drift which communicated with an old waste, by which accident ten men and five boys lost their lives, and one or two who had escaped, afterwards died from the effects of the blast. It was remarkable that though the drift and waste were entirely full of water, yet the foul air immediately fired on holeing the drift.

April 1.—During a violent storm at sea, six cobsles belonging to South Shields were lost, in which 19 men perished, some of them in sight of their wives; also three cobsles belonging to Hartley and Blyth, in which eight or ten men were drowned. Much damage was done at Sunderland, and at Hartlepool, where a number of cobsles and many fishermen were lost.

May 5.—Newhouse, near Cornsay, in the county of Durham, was burnt to the ground, occasioned by a gentleman shooting at some sparrows, and the wadding lodging in the thatch.

May 19.—A dreadful fire broke out in a malting in Plumber Chare, Newcastle, belonging to Mr. John Anderson, brewer, which entirely destroyed the same, and some houses adjoining. Several barrels of tar and spirituous liquors were fortunately taken in time out of a warehouse which the fire afterwards reached, otherwise most of that part of the town must have been reduced to ashes.

June 26.—There were great rejoicings on the arrival in Newcastle of the news of the defeat of the French army at Dettingen on the 16th, by our illustrious monarch, King George II., who commanded in person. The bells were immediately set a ringing, part of General Clayton's* regiment then quartered in that town were drawn up in front of the mansion-house, where they fired three volleys, and the night concluded with bon-fires, illuminations, drinking of loyal healths, and every other demonstration of joy. At all the other towns there were similar rejoicings, the people being animated as it were with one soul.

August 6.—At the assizes held in the Moot-hall, Newcastle, for the county of Northumberland, one William Brown, commonly called *Sir William Brown*, a bold and desperate man, who was at the head of a great number of thieves or moss-troopers, and had been convicted at a former assizes, received sentence of death for returning from transportation. After sentence was passed he begged earnestly to be transported again; but the judge giving no ear to him, Sir William broke out into all the opprobrious language he could think of, against both the judge and the whole court, and wished that God Almighty might damn all their souls to hell. On the 8th, he was executed at the Westgate, Newcastle. He was

* General Clayton was killed in this battle.

attended by the vicar, to whom he expressed great concern for his past wicked life, and seemed very penitent. Two companies of soldiers quartered in Newcastle, guarded him from the castle, and were likewise drawn up at the place of execution, for fear of his being rescued.

1743 (*Aug.*).—Two old men, father and son, from a neighbouring village, were witnesses on a trial at the assizes in Newcastle. The father was 135 years of age, and his son 95, both of them hearty and retaining their sight and hearing.

November 5.—A fire broke out in a shop belonging to a person named Parker, a smith at Eggleston, near Bishop Auckland, Durham, which entirely consumed the same, with a dwelling-house adjoining, two byers and some barns in which was a great quantity of corn.

November 18.—On the receipt of the news that his Majesty, King George II. had arrived safe in England from the seat of war on the 15th, there were great rejoicings in Newcastle, and all the neighbouring towns.

November 29.—A poor boy, who was warming himself at the fire in the guard house adjoining Newgate, in Newcastle, being desired by a soldier to leave, who, upon his refusing to do so, threatened to shoot him, which he unfortunately did, by accidentally taking up a loaded gun instead of his own, which was not charged. Coroner's verdict, *accidental death.*

At this time plays were performed in the Moothall, in the Castle Garth, Newcastle.

1744 (*Feb. 27.*).—A fire broke out in the house of John Moody, smith, near the Ballast-hills, Newcastle, which entirely consumed the same.

April 7.—War was proclaimed against France in the usual places, viz:—on the Sandhill, and at the Flesh-market, in Newcastle, the mayor and aldermen attending in their scarlet gowns, and accompanied by their proper officers.

June 13.—A woman, named Ann Potts, who lived in a hole in Pilgrim-street Gate, Newcastle, being in liquor, let a candle take hold of some straw on which she and her child lay, by which the poor infant was burnt to death.

July 14.—Died, at Wooler, in Northumberland, Adam Turnbull, aged 112 years; he had married four wives, and the last when he was near 100 years of age.

August 11.—James Maben, John Samuel, and Thomas Lister, were executed at the Westgate, Newcastle, the two first for coining, the other for horse stealing. Maben being a man of good education and abilities, and in some part of his life, in good circumstances and reputation, received a great many visits from persons of all ranks after he received sentence of death; and the public being much divided in their sentiments as to his principles, he left an account of them and some of his misfortunes, signed by himself, and attested by fourteen witnesses, which was afterwards

printed and sold for a penny. Maben and Samuel were dressed in white and drawn on a sledge, and Lister in a cart to the place of execution, where Maben called to the under-sheriff for a glass of wine, which was immediately ordered him and repeated. The Rev. Mr. Gordon prayed a considerable time and sung a psalm, after which, Maben took leave of his acquaintances, ascended the ladder to the scaffold, and audibly read the 16th chapter of "Dre-lincourt's Consolations against the Fears of Death," then said, *farewell, vain world!* fixed the rope about his neck, and went off. Samuel was observed to tremble all the time they were at the place of execution, but Maben never shrunk, nor discovered the least horror, only seemed a little confused in fixing the rope about his neck.

1744 (*August 23*).—As the fishermen of Hartley were drawing their herring nets, a bottle-nose entangled itself and was taken. It was six yards long, and three in circumference.

September 22.—About six o'clock in the morning it began to rain at Alnwick, and the neighbourhood, and continued with such violence, that before 12 o'clock the rivers and rivulets were so greatly increased, that several persons were drowned in attempting to ford them. A young man was drowned at Alnwick, and three or four persons in the river Coquet.

October 4.—The new bridge at Weldon Mill, in Northumberland, was carried away by an excessive flood in the river Coquet, caused by heavy rains.

This year, the tollbooth at Stockton was taken down and rebuilt.

1745 (*July 3*).—An express arrived in Newcastle, with the melancholy information of the death of the right worshipful John Ord, esq. mayor of that town, at Hackney, near London. He was governor of the Hoastmen's Company in Newcastle, and M. P. for St. Michael's, in Cornwall. July 15th, Matthew Ridley, esq., was chosen mayor in his stead, and Cuthbert Smith, esq., was elected alderman.

August 24.—Notice was given, "that the diversions usually performed at Long Benton, on that day, would be on Monday, the 26th of August, to which would be added that of bull-baiting, and others entirely new." "N. B.—An ordinary would be provided at the house of Thomas Codling."

August 26.—Nicholas Haddock, keelman, of Sunderland, was hanged at Durham for the murder of Mr. Thomas Alder, farmer, at Hilton Park-house. He confessed the fact, and died penitent. On the 21st of the preceding May, as Mr. Alder was walking in his fields, he was attacked by Haddock, who knocked him down, and murdered him by cutting his throat from ear to ear, ripping up his belly, &c. A young man, servant to Mr. Alder, coming that way with milk, saw the murder, whereupon Haddock threatened to kill him also. The lad immediately ran to Sunderland, and got assistance to apprehend the murderer. On coming to the

place where the deceased lay, the murderer was standing by the body, and swore he would kill the first person that came near him, on which the young man knocked him down with a stone, and the rest laid hold on him and secured him. Haddock when in confinement declared that he had no malice against Mr. Alder, nor ever saw him before in his life to his knowledge. At the place of execution he said he was distracted at the time when he did the fatal deed.

1745 (*Sept. 7*).—In the night, All Saints' church, in Newcastle, was broken into, "and thereout taken a book intituled Burkitt upon the New Testament, with a well-polished chain belonging thereto. If such book or chain should be offered to be pawned or sold, the person or persons to whom such offer shall be made, are desired to stop the same, together with the person or persons, and give an account thereof to the wardens of All Saints." This is merely to shew that at this period there were books chained in this church.

September.—The flame of rebellion having burst out in Scotland, early in this month, pursuant to orders from the board of ordnance, the garrison of Berwick was put into the best posture of defence, and 250 stand of arms were brought from the seat of the Earl of Marchmont, and deposited in the magazine there to prevent them from falling into the hands of the rebels. On the 17th, Edinburgh surrendered to the rebels, in consequence of which, most of the gentlemen and their families between that city and Berwick hastened to the latter place for protection. Lord Mark Ker who was on his march to Edinburgh at the time of its surrender, returned again to Berwick, which had by this time become of great importance, as it was thought this would be the next place attacked by the rebels. Sir Henry Liddell, and Sir William Middleton, also arrived at Berwick to obtain the best possible information. At this time loyal addresses were sent from Durham, Newcastle, Berwick, &c., to his majesty. September 18th, information having arrived at Newcastle that Edinburgh had surrendered the day before, occasioned an universal surprise and consternation, but by the active zeal and timely care of Matthew Ridley, esq., mayor,* in concert with the rest of the magistrates, every necessary means of resistance were adopted, and on the following day, the posse of the town was raised by the sheriff, on which several thousands of the inhabitants entered into a voluntary engagement to arm themselves and join his majesty's forces in defence of the town. On the 20th, great numbers appeared in arms at the Guild-hall, and were formed into companies under the direction of proper officers. The town-walls having been repaired, and all the gates and entrances except three walled up, a survey was taken in order to judge of the places most proper to plant cannon upon,†

* There is an elegant monument by Bacon, to the memory of this patriotic magistrate, in St. Nicholas' church, whereon is recorded the services he rendered the town of Newcastle on this memorable occasion. See April 6th, 1778.

† Great guns were placed on this occasion at the Close-gate, White Friar-

with which the town had been sufficiently supplied, and also with sailors and other proper persons expert in the management of them. September 21st, General Sir John Cope after the defeat of the king's troops at Preston Pans, where that good Christian and brave soldier, Colonel Gardner, was killed, arrived at Berwick, together with Major Mosman, and a great many other officers and dragoons. The same day 700 Dutch troops,* with the Glasgow man-of-war, arrived at Berwick from Holland. On the 24th, Admiral Byng with seven ships of the line also arrived here. The same day part of the volunteers of Northumberland, to the number of 600 horse and foot mustered on Newcastle-moor, accompanied by most of the gentlemen of the county, from whence they marched into Newcastle, where these brave fellows were joyfully received. There was a similar muster in the county of Durham, where upwards of 1,100 horse and foot appeared on Framwellgate moor. This day, Colonel Frazer arrived at Newcastle, from London, and on the following day, Lord Mark Ker, from Berwick. On the 26th, Lord Ker examined the walls, &c. of Newcastle, and declared them to be in a good condition of defence; he at the same time ordered three machine batteries to be raised—one in the Close, another on the Quay, and a third, on the Windmill hills. The same day, the gentlemen who had entered into a voluntary engagement to defend the town, were reviewed by his lordship and Colonel Walsh. On the 28th, the volunteers joined the other forces, and had their stations assigned them. Sunderland furnished Newcastle with 16 pieces of heavy ordnance, offering at the same time several more, and a great number of able men, if there were occasion for them. Oct. 2d, an express arrived from the Duke of Newcastle's office, stating that his Majesty had ordered directly to Newcastle, from Flanders, eight regiments more of foot, which were to be followed as soon as possible by three regiments of horse. Several keels laden with heavy artillery, powder, ball, and other warlike stores, came up the river to Newcastle, from Clifford's fort. The cannon were mounted on the town's-wall, and the ammunition was deposited in a magazine, in the Castle yard. October 4th, the Glasgow man-of-war, sailed from the Tyne, for Scotland, with Lord Loudon, to head the well-affected clans, and march against the rebels; the next day, six hundred of La Rocque's Dutch regiment arrived at Newcastle from Berwick. On the night of October the 7th, two centinels on the walls at Berwick, observing a light moving towards them, fired at it, which alarmed the whole town; the general immediately got on horseback, and the garrison under arms, but nothing appearing

tower, Postern-gate, Heslop's-house, Old Ropers'-tower, Dobison's-tower, West-gate, Hatters'-tower, Glaziers'-tower, Paviers'-tower, St. Andrew's-tower, Newgate, Pilgrim-street-gate, Weavers'-tower, Cutlers'-tower, Ropers'-tower, Pandon-gate, Carpenters'-tower, Sand-gate, on the wall above the pant, Broad-chare, Sandhill-corner, Bridge-end, and at the mayor's.

* These troops introduced an infectious fever into Berwick, which swept off great numbers of both sexes. In the months of November and December, 109 interments appear in the burial register.

to disturb them, they were soon quieted again ; but to prevent being surprised again, bon-fires were ordered to be made round the town in the night time, about two hundred yards distance from the walls. This day, James Lockhart, of Carnwath, arrived at Berwick, and surrendered himself prisoner to General Cope ; and a ship-of-war, hired by government, and the king's tender, arrived at the same place. The masts of the tender being taken out, it was stationed above the bridge ; the ship-of-war, three transports, and some other vessels, were stationed below the bridge, which completely defended the south part of that town. The inhabitants had raised 1,000 volunteers, which were formed into fifteen companies, these, with the regular force, were determined to defend Berwick, to the last extremity. October the 11th, being the anniversary of the coronation of the king (George II.), it was observed at Newcastle, in the most hearty and popular manner. The English and Dutch troops were drawn up at noon on the Sandhill, and each of them made three fires. Afterwards the officers dined with the mayor, who also gave money to the men to drink his majesty's health. At this momentous crisis, the people expressed their loyalty in a most extraordinary manner. October 12th, the following notice was published ;—" Newcastle upon Tyne,—All persons whatsoever resident without the walls of the said town, that have any ladder or ladders, are desired immediately to bring the same into the town's yard, behind the hospital in the Manors. And it is ordered, that no person whatsoever (except the proper gunners) shall come near the great guns, within the said town, after six o'clock at night. And that no person whatsoever, fire a gun or other fire arms, in or near the said town, in the evening or at night, when it is dark, upon pain of imprisonment. And all persons living without the walls, but within the liberties of the said town, who have in their custody any fire arms, are desired immediately to bring and deliver them at the mayor's house. And all persons living within the said town, who have in their custody, any pick-axes or shovels, are also desired forthwith to deliver them at the same place. And notice is hereby given, that the fair, customarily held here on the 18th of October, yearly, will not be held on the 18th instant, but some time after, of which public notice will be given." "CUTHBERTSON." Several centry boxes were set at convenient distances on the walls of Newcastle, and a vast number of sand bags hung over them, and palisadoes were fixed near them to hinder the access of any enemy. Several parts of the river Tyne, were also palisadoed, to prevent the enemy crossing it at low water. October 17th, General Handyside went through Newcastle, for Berwick, to command there in the room of General Sir John Cope. The next day, arrived at Newcastle, under convoy of the Ludlow man-of-war, the Robert and Jane, Francis Pemberton, from London, with sixty chests of arms, containing fifteen hundred, forty-five barrels of gun-powder, and a ton and a half of lead shot, for that town, and twelve gunners for Berwick. The same night, arrived at Newcastle, guarded by twelve dragoons, on his way to London, James

Lockhart, of Carnwath, esq., and was lodged at Mr. Barber's, bookseller, in Humble's buildings. October 21st, the purveyors of General Wade's army, arrived at Darlington, and employed all the bakers in that town to get bread ready against the arrival of the army, then on its march to Newcastle. There were great rejoicings at Berwick, upon the arrival of General Handyside, who made several new regulations, greatly to the security and advantage of that town. October 22d, the Earl of Albemarle, and several other officers of distinction arrived at Newcastle, from on board the Gibraltar man-of-war. Same day, General Cope and Brigadier Fowkes, came into Newcastle, and, on the following day, they, together with Mr. Lockhart, of Carnwath, and Mr. Hixon, who had been taken up as a spy, set out for London. This last, who was a noted publican, of Perth, was apprehended at Newcastle, on the 24th of the preceding month, and on his examination before the magistrates, confessed that he was on the Pretender's errand; on searching his portmanteau, there was found inclosed in the top of a glove, a letter addressed from the Pretender to his friends in England, whereupon he was committed to Newgate, where he attempted to destroy himself, by cutting his throat with a penknife, but did not execute his purpose effectually. October 24th, seventeen transports with troops, arrived at Newcastle. The regiments were quartered as follows:—Howard's (called the old buffs), Ligonier's, Fleming's, and Price's, at Newcastle; Barrell's, at South Shields; Monro's, at North Shields; and Wolfe's, at Sunderland. A transport also arrived at Newcastle, with part of seven hundred Dutch troops, and eight transports at Berwick. Next day, arrived in Newcastle, with the brave General Oglethorpe at their head, his majesty's Royal Hunters, from Yorkshire; they made a most gallant appearance, being well equipped with martial accoutrements and mounted on fine horses. At this time, there were about one thousand horse quartered at Durham. Same day, two transports with troops from Flanders, arrived at Berwick. October 28th, Field-marshal Wade, commander in chief of the army which was to march against the rebels, arrived in Newcastle, and on the following day, Pulteney's, Cholmondley's, and Blakeney's regiments, English; Hirzel's three battalions, Villatre's, Holstein-Gottorp's, and Patot's regiments, and four companies of Brackel's regiment, Dutch and Swiss, arrived at the same place. October 30th, there were great rejoicings at Newcastle, &c., on account of being his majesty's birth day. At Morpeth the day was ushered in with ringing of bells, and in the afternoon, the magistrates met, attended by the Royal Yorkshire Hunters (who had arrived there three days before with Captain Gowland at their head), with their French horns, the burgesses and gentlemen of the town, and proceeded to the market-place, where one hundred and eighty men, raised and paid by the town, and neighbouring noblemen, gentlemen, and clergy, for the defence of his majesty's person and government, were drawn up under arms, and a large bon-fire made, when the healths of his majesty and all the royal family were drunk under

a triple discharge of fire arms from the volunteers, and the loud huzzas of the populace. The magistrates, burgesses, and the volunteers, &c., retired to an entertainment provided for them by Sir Henry Liddell, bart. and the Royal Hunters, to the Town-hall, where an elegant ball was made by them for the ladies, and the evening concluded with ringing of bells, firing of guns, illuminations, &c. Many loyal healths were drunk, as his majesty's, the royal family, the secretaries of state, Lord Carlisle's, the knights of the shire, Sir Henry Liddell, bart., and Robert Ord, esq., Field-marshal Wade's, and all the generals, &c. &c. On the 31st a very fine train of brass cannon, with ammunition, and other stores, on upwards of one hundred carriages, and Battersau's regiment of horse from Ireland arrived at Newcastle. General Wade's horse, Montague's horse, and St. George's dragoons were at Durham. Nov. 1st. the Royal Scots arrived at Newcastle, as did also about one hundred foot, headed by William Thornton, esq.,* who had raised the same to join the royal regiment of Yorkshire Hunters. On the same day, eighty men raised by Lord Winchelsea, at his own expense, and paid to the day of joining the king's troops, arrived at Newcastle, and joined Cholmondley's regiment of foot. All the above regiments were encamped on Newcastle Town-moor, where they were visited by many thousands of people from various parts of the country. The regiments of English and Dutch which had arrived at Newcastle and Berwick from Flanders, together with Gardner's and Hamilton's dragoons, increased the army under the command of General Wade, to upwards of twenty thousand men. Within a few days the following generals had arrived at Newcastle, viz :—Lords Albemarle, Huske, and Howard; Major-generals, Cholmondley, Wolfe, Mordaunt, Ogleshorpe, and Wentworth, English; and Prince Maurice of Nassau, and General Swartzenburgh, Dutch. General Wade, in the king's name, published, whilst at Newcastle, a declaration, assuring such of the rebels as had been seduced or forced into the rebellion by their superiors, that if they would lay down their arms on or before the 12th of November 1745, and become faithful subjects to King George II., they should become objects of his majesty's clemency, but that if they continued in their rebellion, they should be proceeded against with rigour. Nov. 3d, General Wade, and some of the other Generals, with a party of General Wade's horse, and Thornton's company of Yorkshire Hunters, left Newcastle for Berwick, but the generals returned the next day to wait accounts of the route of the rebels. Nov. 5th, being the anniversary of Gun Powder Plot, great rejoicings took place at Newcastle and the other towns; at Durham, the Independent company mustered in the fields

* July 10, 1769.—Died, at his seat at Thornville, Yorkshire, of the gout in his stomach, aged 58, William Thornton, esq., colonel of the York regiment of militia, and a justice of the peace for the West Riding. In 1745, at his own expense, he raised a company of foot, whom he clothed and paid, with which he marched into Scotland against the rebels, and was at the battle of Falkirk.

and fired three vollies, they then entered the city, and after firing in the market-place, they went to the Rose and Crown and finished the day, with drinking loyal healths. This day, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, the first column of the rebels passed the Tweed at Kelso, and marched forward and entered English ground for the first time, where they proclaimed the Pretender king, then retired the way they came, Nov. 8th, Prince Maurice of Nassau, accompanied by Field-marshal Wade, and a great number of general officers, reviewed the troops that were encamped on Newcastle Moor, where the army was drawn up in battle array, consisting of two grand lines, each three deep, and near two miles long, with their officers standing at the head of each regiment, and the train of artillery properly disposed, the whole exhibiting a grand and imposing spectacle. Nov. 10th, seven companies of Fleming's regiment, three of Barrel's, Captain Thornton's company of Yorkshire Hunters, and some Dutch arrived at Newcastle from Berwick, and joined their respective regiments encamped there. Next day James Brand, a quarter-master in Lord Kilmarnock's horse, and son of Mr. Brand, watch-maker in Edinburgh, was brought prisoner to Newcastle, having been taken betwixt Ecclefechan and Lockerby, by Mr. Kilpatrick, lieutenant of the Cumberland militia, assisted by three of his men. Nov. 14th,* General Oglethorpe, with Wade's and Montague's horse, and St. George's dragoons, arrived at Newcastle. Same day, about nine o'clock at night, the Trial, sloop of war, Captain Barry, of ten carriage, and fourteen swivel guns, was driven ashore at Holy Island, just below the castle, but the crew (one hundred and ten men) happily got upon a rock in the sea, where they remained all night up to their middle in water. Two of the men perished in the cold. The captain staid in the ship to the very last. By the morning's tide, the vessel drove upon a rock and was stove to pieces, but the crew saved the guns. The same night, two transports that had landed their troops at Berwick, but were going to Holland to bring over some more, drove ashore on the rocks at Holy Island, and were stove to pieces; the crew of one was entirely lost, but eight of the crew of the other were saved. The country people carried off every thing valuable they could lay their hands upon. Nov. 16th, Marshal Wade's army marched from their encampment at Newcastle for Carlisle, but the general hearing at Hexham that Carlisle was then in the hands of the rebels,† and that a body of them had marched

* The Friends at this critical period gave proofs of their loyalty and philanthropy, for about the middle of November, some of that body, on behalf of themselves and others of their persuasion, waited on Sir William Younge, General Ligonier, and other officers, with an offer, at the expense of those Quakers, to furnish the troops employed in his majesty's service, in that severe season of the year in the north, with woollen waistcoats, to double over the breast and belly, long enough to be under their waistbands, and to be worn under their own cloathing, which was well accepted, and ten thousand were to be delivered in four or five days, and the rest with the greatest expedition.

† Carlisle capitulated on the 14th of November in the evening, and on the

southwards, ordered the army back to Newcastle, from whence they were to march directly in pursuit of them. Nov. 20th, General Oglethorpe returned to Newcastle with the cavalry, and the next day all the foot arrived. The horse and dragoons were quartered at Chester-le-street and Durham, and as many as possible of the foot quartered at Newcastle, in the private, as well as the public houses, and the rest lodged in the churches and meeting-houses, empty houses, corn lofts, glass-houses, &c. Two Highlanders, well mounted, surrendered themselves to General Wade at Hexham, and were sent to Newcastle. Nov. 24th, the artillery of General Wade's army, with two regiments of foot, marched from Newcastle to the south, and on the 26th, the remainder of the army took the same route. On the night of the 29th, the army was encamped near Barnard Castle, on its way over Stainmoor. A person named Thomas Collingwood, of Thrunton, in Northumberland, having been committed to Morpeth gaol for high treason, made his escape from thence on the 27th, or 28th of November, 1745. Fifty pounds were offered by an advertisement* for his apprehension. He was afterwards taken and tried with the rebel prisoners at Carlisle, Sept. 19th, 1746, but acquitted. Dec. 5th, the guns which were planted round the walls of Newcastle, were tried by the gunners, who made a general discharge, which gave general satisfaction. Dec. 15th, an old fellow, captain in Glenbucket's regiment, and six other rebels, were brought to Newcastle from Penrith, and committed to gaol. On the night of the 17th, Newcastle was alarmed with the news of the appearance of a party of rebels at Lanchester, on their way to Newcastle, on which, in less than three quarters of an hour, near one hundred and fifty volunteers of Captain Aubone's company assembled and offered their services to Colonel Frazer, to guard the pass at Newburn; but an express arriving soon after with the account, that the rebels had taken a different route, the volunteers were dismissed with honour. On the 18th, General Huske, with one thousand men from General Wade's army, arrived in Newcastle for the security of that town, as it was apprehended that the rebels on their retreat might pay it a visit. The same day, one of the Pretender's hussars, who had been taken by the Penrith militia, was brought

next day at ten o'clock on the morning, it was given up. About one o'clock in the afternoon the rebels entered the city, and the next morning the castle was surrendered to them.

* "Northumberland.—Whereas Thomas Collingwood, son of _____ Collingwood, of Thrunton in this county, was committed on Wednesday last to the gaol, in and for this county at Morpeth, for high treason, and made his escape from thence, in the night between the 27th and 28th of this instant, November; These are therefore to give notice, that if any person, or persons, shall apprehend the said Thomas Collingwood, and deliver him to the keeper of the said gaol, such person, or persons, shall have paid to him or them, by the treasurer of this county, a reward of £50. N. B.—The said Thomas Collingwood is a person of middle stature, about 25 years of age, has a round face, and a short nose, and wore, when he escaped, a light coloured wig, a dark coloured coat, and a silk handkerchief about his neck."

to Newcastle and imprisoned. On the 19th, a French drummer, dressed in red, and guarded by a party of dragoons, arrived in Newcastle, from Lord John Drummond, in Scotland, with letters to Marshal Wade* and the prince of Nassau. The following day the marshal returned to Newcastle, and in the evening arrived his artillery. The 1,000 foot brought to Newcastle by General Huske, left that town on the 21st to join the duke of Cumberland at Carlisle. Horses were provided for them at Hexham to expedite their march. The British portion of Marshal Wade's army (which marched in three divisions), arrived at Newcastle on the 22d, 23d, and 24th, the Dutch remained at Durham. December 26th, an express arrived at Newcastle from his royal highness the duke of Cumberland, then near Carlisle, to Marshal Wade, requesting him to send directly some experienced captains of ships, who had served on board the royal navy, and understood the management of great guns; also some powder, balls, cohorns, matrosses, &c., upon which Captain Errington†, and Captain Francis Heath, two of the elder brethren of the Trinity-house, and ten other brethren of the same house to be under their directions, offered their services, and accordingly set out the next morning for Carlisle. The ammunition was sent off immediately on the arrival of the express, under an escort of soldiers all mounted. All the brethren of the Trinity-house offered their services for the same purpose. On the 27th, General Hawley arrived at Newcastle to take the command of the army, Marshal Wade having to leave the north for London. December 29th, Walter Blackett, esq., and Nicholas Fenwick, esq., members of parliament for Newcastle, left that town for Carlisle, to compliment the duke of Cumberland on the part of the corporation, and to invite his royal highness to that town. On the following day they arrived at Blackhall, near Carlisle, the duke's head quarters, where they were received with very great civility and respect, and they had the honour to dine with his royal highness, at which time the rebels hung out the white flag. On the 31st, they had the pleasure to make part of the duke's cavalcade in his triumphal entry into Carlisle.‡ January the 2d, 1746, they returned to Newcastle. On the 4th, all the forces at Newcastle had marched northwards. This day Cobham's dragoons marched from Hexham to Morpeth on their way to Edinburgh, and on the 6th, the Scots Fuzileers and Lord Semple's regiment arrived at Newcastle, which place they

* The following answer by General Wade was returned by the French drummer, viz. :—“*That the marshal hath no answer to give to the letter brought by him, and that he can receive no message from a person who is a subject of the king's, and in rebellion against his majesty.*”

† August 17th, 1773, died in Newcastle, aged 85, Captain William Errington, master of the pilots of that port. In his prime of life he was supposed to be the strongest man in England, which he occasionally gave proof of by many surprising feats of strength.

‡ On the arrival of the news that Carlisle had surrendered to the duke of Cumberland, there were great rejoicings at Newcastle. Being new year's eve, the bells continued to ring all the night and the next morning.

left on the 8th for Edinburgh.* On the 12th, arrived at Shields from London, twelve 18 pounders, for the use of Tynemouth fort, with two officers of artillery, and 19 gunners and matrosses for General Hawley's army at Edinburgh. January the 14th, an express arrived at Newcastle for General Hawley's field artillery, the next day the gunners, matrosses, &c. marched for Edinburgh, and the following day the train of artillery, ammunition, and General Hawley's baggage, set out for the same place, under a sufficient guard. At the battle of Falkirk, in Scotland, which was fought on the 17th of January, 1746, the gallant exploit of the brave Mr. Hall, of Newcastle, must not be omitted. He was a captain in Monro's regiment of grenadiers, and sold his life dear in this engagement:—Five of the rebels having taken one of his men prisoner, the captain boldly attacked them, killed two or three with his own hand, and released the grenadier, but the ungrateful poltroon immediately fled and left his captain to the mercy of a fresh posse of rebels who butchered him in a most barbarous manner with their broadswords. January 19,† Lord Mark Ker's dragoons marched through Rothbury to join General Hawley's army at Edinburgh, by way of Kelso; the following day the marquis of Granby's regiment arrived at Newcastle, and the duke of Bedford's the day after, both in excellent order.‡ On the 23d, a squadron of Montague's horse arrived at the same place on their way to Edin-

* Early in the morning of January 7, a fire broke out in Chester-le-Street, in the house used for a guard-house there, in which was about 50 horse load of baggage, all which was entirely consumed, with the house, in about two hours.

† According to the parochial register of Norton, in the county of Durham, the following officers, &c., were buried there, "1746, January 18, Bernard Gentant, a German soldier." "January 19, Sir Frederick Muntz, from Cleve, in Germany, captain of the regiment of the duke of Holstein-Gottorp." "Same day, Martin Schmiaky, from Prussia, captain in the same regiment, both buried in the church east of the font." "January 31, John Fursall, drum-major in the same regiment."

‡ *Extract of a letter from Sunderland, dated January 21, 1746.*—"Yesterday a number of people, consisting chiefly of sailors, went about ten o'clock in the morning to the popish mass-house in this town, where they found several people at prayers and a couple to be married, who, with Mr. Hankins, their priest, all fled out; upon which the sailors immediately pulled down their altar and crucifix, together with all the seats, the priest's robes, all their books, the furniture, and every individual thing in the room, and burnt them in a fire in the street, made for that purpose; and also a large library of books and papers belonging to the priest, among which was found (before they were committed to the flames), a list of the names of several people in this place who are well affected to the present government, called by the papists *Odd Friends*, with letters annexed to the names not yet decyphered. The list so found is wrote by the popish priest's own hands, and is as follows:—*A list of Odd Friends.* Matthew Russell, S D; Thomas Ayre, S D; Warren Maud, S D; Mark Burley, S D; Maylin, W; Inman, F F; Craggs, S D; Matthew Carr, F; George Robinson, S B; George Syal, B; Ann Syal, B; Nath. Leak, B; Cooper Shiphard, W; James Donnison, O; William Wilkinson, H; Thomas Firriby, S D; John Hodgshon, S B; Officer Bainbridge. This piece of wood I cut off an old chair in Jarrow church, which was the chair St. Cuthbert sat in to hear confessions. NICHOLAS TAYLOR."

burgh, but on the 25th returned southward. A fresh set of 102 horses arrived at Newcastle from London, on the 23d, for the train of artillery, from whence they set forward to Edinburgh. The following day the marquis of Granby's regiment was reviewed by General Wentworth. January 25th, his royal highness the duke of Cumberland set out from London, and travelled northwards as far as Wetherby before he took any rest, where he arrived on the following night. About eight o'clock at night on the 27th, his royal highness arrived at the city of Durham. He was met by the mayor, recorder, and aldermen, with the town's music and banners at the head of Elvet, where he was welcomed to that city in a short speech by the recorder; they then marched in procession before his royal highness through the city, which was illuminated, and thousands of people shouting as if they would rend the skies. On the same night the news of his royal highness's approach was brought to Newcastle, which immediately ran through the town, and carried with it every where a transport of joy; thousands of the inhabitants flocked to the low parts of the town, along the bridge, and into Gateshead, happy in the pleasing expectations of beholding this heroic prince. The streets in Newcastle, through which he was to pass, were lined with the duke of Bedford's and the marquis of Granby's regiments under arms, but his royal highness having been retarded by the badness of the roads could not reach Newcastle quite so soon as the rapidity of his progress had occasioned him to be expected, the soldiers therefore were discharged from duty at ten o'clock at night; however, about one o'clock on the morning of the 28th, his royal highness safely arrived at Gateshead, where he was welcomed by a kind of illumination which gave his royal highness great uneasiness to see. The mob having set a mansion-house, with a popish chapel within it, on fire,* at that place on the occasion. The outrage is said to have proceeded from the following circumstances. The family being from home, the house, chapel, &c. were left to the care of the gardener whose name was Woodness; when the duke and his attendants were coming down, the mob being anxious to see them, several of them climbed upon the garden walls to have a better view, when the gardener afraid of his master's property, let loose some dogs upon them which bit several who were keelmen; being exasperated, they attempted to catch the gardener, who, no doubt, would have fallen a victim to their rage. Finding the object of their fury had eluded them, they set fire to the mansion-house, &c. He was met on the bridge at his entrance into Newcastle, by the mayor

* The ancestors of the Riddells, of Swinburne Castle and Cheeseburne Grange, were many years seated at it, and, in their time, it was called Gateshead-house. At the time when the house was fired, it was the seat of the Claverings of Callaly, since which time it has been untenanted. The ruins still remain. The same morning early, some disorderly persons broke and entered into a house called "The Nuns," in Newcastle (where was another popish chapel), and took away and destroyed several goods, &c. belonging to it. The corporation liberally offered £50. for the discovery of the offenders.

and aldermen in their formalities, attended by several other gentlemen, who after having paid him the compliments due to his exalted rank and station, walked before him to the mansion-house, the streets being all the way illuminated with torches and flambeaux, the bells ringing and guns firing during the time. As soon as he entered the mansion-house, the people pressed in after him, and the crowd was so great, that in a little time he thought proper to retire to his chamber, where, after taking a little refreshment, he retired to rest, and slept soundly for about three hours, then rose hale and active, as if he had suffered no fatigue, and having dispatched such business as required his immediate attention, he breakfasted in the great dining-room, amidst a crowd of glad spectators, who made no end of their gratulations to this heroic prince and his illustrious family, which were amply repaid by his royal highness's affability. He was attended by the earl of Albemarle, whose son, Lord Bury, a promising young nobleman, was *aid-de-camp* to the duke. They had travelled in a coach and six from London to Durham, but finding the roads grew worse, his royal highness was pleased to accept of a horse, which was presented to him by George Bowes, esq, M. P. for the county of Durham, upon which he rode into Newcastle. On Tuesday morning, January 28th, about seven o'clock his royal highness proceeded to the north, and was saluted on his departure with a peal of bells and a discharge of cannon from the town's walls. His royal highness was saluted with every demonstration of loyalty and affection at every town through which he passed. At Morpeth he was met by the bailiffs and other officers, accompanied by the principal inhabitants and most of the neighbouring gentry, who conducted him into and through that town (for he made no stop in it) with all possible marks of affection and repeated acclamations. When the duke's army reached Felton, Edward Horsley Widdrington, esq., who professed the Roman Catholic religion, caused the contents of his well-stored cellar to be carted to the street of the village, where he regaled the different corps as they advanced, with bread, beef, and beer. His royal highness, in passing through, experienced his hospitality, and at parting expressed his satisfaction at such distinguished liberality. Mr. W. replied, that he wished well to his illustrious family, and detested internal commotions, as neither plenty nor pleasure could be enjoyed independent of peace. The sympathetic zeal of the inhabitants catching his royal highness's attention, he graciously condescended to bestow upon this village, the meritorious appellation of *the loyal little village of Felton*. His royal highness dined at Alnwick, and was welcomed with loud huzzas, and every other demonstration of joy. About two o'clock on the morning of the 29th, he was met upon the bridge at Berwick by the mayor and magistrates, who conducted him to the governor's house, where his royal highness lodged until eight o'clock, when he set out for Edinburgh. There were great rejoicings by firing of guns, ringing of bells, illuminations, and continued huzzas from the people during the few hours

his royal highness remained at Berwick. He was also presented with the freedom of the town. Jan. 31st, two squadrons of St. George's dragoons, and a large party of Lord Mark Ker's dragoons marched through Newcastle to join the duke of Cumberland's army at Edinburgh. Feb. 6th, the duke of Kingston's light dragoons arrived at Newcastle on their march to Scotland; they were exceedingly well equipped. On the 10th the duke of Cumberland's baggage, carried on mules, richly caparisoned, passed through Newcastle for Scotland; and, on the 13th, about £20,000. in cash, was sent from Newcastle to Scotland for the use of the army, escorted by a party of dragoons. On the 17th, in the night, some rebels, imprisoned at Newcastle, attempted to break out of the gaol, but were discovered before their design was accomplished, and committed to cold quarters, by being chained to the dungeon wall.* The duke of Cumberland's baggage returned through Newcastle for London on the 21st. March 3d, thirty transports which had landed the Hessians at Leith, arrived in the Tyne, under convoy of his majesty's ships the Sheerness, Gibraltar, Grenada, and Hawk sloop. On the 11th, the Dutch troops commenced embarking in these transports, which sailed from Shields with the first fair wind. Four chests of money were conveyed through Newcastle for the duke of Cumberland's army, escorted by a party of dragoons on the 9th of March. All fears respecting the rebels being at this time dissipated, the gates of Newcastle, which had been built up, were ordered to be opened as formerly. April the 14th, the duke of Cumberland's travelling coach passed through Newcastle for Scotland, drawn by six grey horses, and attended by eight hussars. April the 21st, an express arrived at Newcastle to Colonel Stanwix, with the important information of his royal highness having obtained a complete victory over the rebels on the 16th at Culloden. The news of this glorious action ran through the town like a torrent, and in a few minutes had extended to every corner. All business was immediately suspended, so that the streets were quickly crowded, and echoed with repeated shouts and acclamations; the bells of all the churches were rung, and the guns incessantly thundered from the ships and round the walls. About five o'clock in the afternoon, the marquis of Granby's regiment was drawn up on the Sandhill, where the mayor and magistrates were assembled, and fired three volleys, during which many loyal healths were drunk amidst the huzzas of the populace. In the evening, bon-fires were lighted in the streets, and the windows, both of the houses and churches, were very splendidly illuminated, as were also the ships in the river; the young gentlemen of the Free Grammar School caused tar barrels to be burnt, and had their school illuminated at their own expense. Nor were the rejoicings confined to the limits of Newcastle, but

* When the gaol was being pulled down, I saw a number of massy iron rings affixed to the walls of the very dark, damp, and gloomy dungeon which was upon the ground floor, underneath the gateway, on the right as you entered Newcastle from the north.

equally manifested by all possible demonstrations in every town and village, and even private houses. April 22d, Lord Bury went through Newcastle express for London, with the particulars of that glorious action. On the 2d of May, the French officers and men who had been taken prisoners at Inverness, arrived in Newcastle; the officers were at liberty on parole, but the men were confined in the Moothall. On the 5th they left Newcastle under a strong escort for Carlisle. May 26th, his serene highness Frederick, prince of Hesse, arrived in Newcastle from Scotland; he was received by ringing of bells, firing of guns, &c. The marquis of Granby's regiment paid him proper honours as he passed through the streets to his quarters, where the mayor and the other officers of the corporation waited upon him. The prince observing the people to crowd about his quarters, very obligingly placed himself at an open window for a considerable time. He was in the 26th year of his age. May the 29th, arrived in Newcastle, for London, on parole, the Pretender's cook, who carried with him to the Princess Amelia, by order of the duke of Cumberland, three pies made at Culloden house for his master the day of the battle; and also some cheese belonging to the Pretender, as a compliment to the duke of Richmond, both found in Culloden house. The cook was busy dressing the Pretender's dinner in the time of the action, but as soon as the news came to Culloden house from the Pretender that all was lost, he left off cooking, mounted his horse, and attempted to get to Inverness, but was taken prisoner on the road by a party of the king's troops. June the 16th, a man named Lewis, a Welshman, and one Baillie, an Irishman, were shot at Berwick for deserting from the king's army into the rebel army; the latter in his confession said, that the day of his execution was the anniversary of his marriage, and about the same hour. July 10th, arrived in Newcastle in a coach, under an escort of a party of dragoons, commanded by Lieutenant-colonel Cockayne, John Murray, esq., of Broughton, the Pretender's secretary, and the following day he proceeded to London; he looked exceedingly pale and dejected. On the 13th, Sir William Middleton, bart. arrived at his seat at Belsay Castle, in Northumberland. He had attended the duke of Cumberland from his passing through to Scotland, and was present at the battle of Culloden. July 23d, about one o'clock in the morning, his royal highness the duke of Cumberland arrived at Newcastle from Scotland. He was attended by Lancelot Allgood, esq., high sheriff for the county of Northumberland, and Sir William Middleton, bart., in a coach and six, and was welcomed to town by Cuthbert Smith, esq., mayor, William Cuthbert, esq., recorder, and several other persons of distinction, at Newgate, after a polite and genteel manner. From thence he was conveyed to the mansion-house, where his royal highness was presented with the freedom of the town in a gold box, by the mayor, and was also presented with the freedom of the company of masters, mariners, &c., of the Trinity-house, by

Francis Heath, esq., master of the said company, in another gold box, being both of curious workmanship, both of which his royal highness accepted very graciously. The marquis of Granby, and other persons of distinction accompanied him from Scotland. The expedition of his royal highness's journey to London not permitting him to stay long at one place, he set out about three o'clock the same morning with a great deal of company. There were illuminations, bon-fires, and other rejoicings on the occasion, and mock Pretenders were burnt in different places. On the 28th arrived in Newcastle, in a coach and six, the famous Lord Lovat, under the care of Major Gardner, escorted by two troops of dragoons. He came from Morpeth that morning, and travelled only one stage a day; he got out of the coach to his lodgings by the assistance of two of the dragoons, with his arms round their shoulders, and two of their arms round his back to support him. His postillion, and two other persons, taken prisoners with him, attended him to London, the first of whom was to be evidence against him. The next morning he proceeded on his journey attended as above, and was hissed as he passed along the streets, by the incensed populace.* In August, the high sheriff of Northumberland, received orders to return his majesty's thanks to the gentlemen of the said county, for the distinguished zeal they had shewn for his majesty's service during the continuance of the unnatural rebellion. September 15th, Alexander Anthony, a soldier in general Cholmondley's regiment, quartered in Newcastle, was shot on the town moor, for enlisting in the French service. He was wounded at the battle of Fontenoy, and made prisoner by the French, afterwards persuaded to enlist into Fitz-James's horse, with whom he came over to Scotland and joined the rebels, and was very active in their service at the battle of Culloden, after which he was taken prisoner. He died a Roman catholic, behaved decently, and begged of all his brother soldiers never to desert their colours. He was about 23 years of age, and born at Stamford, in Lincolnshire. December 8th, 1746, Charles Radcliffe, esq., brother to the unfortunate earl of Derwentwater, was beheaded on Tower-hill, London. He was tried and condemned for being in the rebellion in 1715, but escaped from Newgate on the 11th of December, 1716. He was taken in the Soliel, a French privateer, November 25th, 1745, with Fitz-James's horse, and about one hundred others, French, Scots, and Irish, and a great quantity of arms and ammunition, bound to Montrose, to assist the Pretender, in the rebellion of that year. On his examination, he contended that he was not Charles, but Francis Radcliffe, who had retired to France previous to the rebellion in

* He was beheaded on Tower-hill, London, on the 9th of April, 1747. Immense crowds of spectators were on scaffolds to behold the exit of this extraordinary man, but some of them suffered for their curiosity, for one of the scaffolds breaking down, several were killed on the spot, a great number had their bones broken, and were otherwise horribly bruised.

1715, but two persons from Northumberland, named Abraham Bunting* and Thomas Mouzeley, swore to his identity, and he was executed as above on his former attainder. This unfortunate gentleman, was the youngest of three sons born to Sir Francis Radcliffe, his father, by the lady Mary Tudor, natural daughter to King Charles II. by Mrs. Mary Davis. From the time of Radcliffe's escape he had resided abroad, and latterly in France, where he married the lady Newburgh, relict of the honourable Thomas Clifford, by whom he had two sons and a daughter. James-Bartholomew, the eldest son, was prisoner with him in the Tower, and afterwards claimed the earldom of Newburgh in right of his mother, and died in 1776. January 11th, 1747, Lieutenant Melvil and Ensign Reynolds, officers in Cholmondley's regiment, quartered in Newcastle, happening to be in company at a tavern with some gentlemen, Mr. Reynolds several times drank d—— to all Scotsmen, calling them rebels, &c., though he knew Mr. Melvil was a native of that country, which enraged the latter to a very great degree, but the company prevented them doing any harm to each other, and they seemed after to be reconciled; however, their swords were taken from them, and they were sent to their respective lodgings under arrest. Next morning, Mr. Reynolds sent a challenge to Mr. Melvil, to meet him at a place named, and so impatient was he for an answer, that he could not wait the return of the messenger, but went himself to the house where Mr. Melvil lodged, who, being in bed, immediately got up and dressed himself, and then told the messenger that Mr. Reynolds might come to him as soon as he pleased. The unhappy man came up stairs directly, and in a few minutes the pistols were heard to go off as one shot, and Mr. Reynolds fell. Mr. Melvil immediately after came down stairs, and desired the people of the house to call a surgeon to the assistance of his antagonist, which was expeditiously done, but to no purpose, as he expired before any one could come. Mr. Melvil retired by the Carliol Croft,† and was that day seen with his servant, three miles north of Morpeth, both on foot. Mr. Melvil had parried Mr. Reynolds' pistol, as the ball had struck the wall above a man's height, but the ball fired at Mr. Reynolds went in at one side of the breast, and out at the other, and lodged in the room door. The coroner's inquest sat several hours on the body, and

* Abraham Bunting swore, that the first time he saw the prisoner was at the funeral of one of the family, and that he saw him once, he believed, afterwards; and the last time he saw him was on horse-back, at Hexham, with the rebels, in 1715, and that he was sure the prisoner was the person. Thomas Mouzeley swore, he lived within two miles of the seat belonging to the Derwentwater family, in Northumberland, that he had often seen the prisoner at the bar, and that he knew him to be Charles Radcliffe, brother of the late earl of Derwentwater; being asked by the prisoner's counsel how he could be so positive, he said, by a scar on the right side of his face, which was always much whiter than the rest of his face, and looked like the mark of a scald. This appeared plain upon the prisoner's face.

† I would infer that Mr. Melvil lodged in a house on the east side of Pilgrim Street. Perhaps the perforation in the door might be traced at this day.

brought in a verdict of *manslaughter*. February the 6th, 1747. George Maccan, a soldier in General Guise's regiment of foot, quartered at Berwick, was shot there for deserting four times, at one of which he joined the rebels. He was also much addicted to stealing. The morning of his execution, under favour of the noise of the drum beating the *reveille*, he attempted to break out of gaol, having, with no other instrument than his handcuffs, beat such large pieces of hewn stone out of the walls which nobody could have imagined to have been done without a great hammer.

1746 (*Jan. 2*).—According to the register of St. John's church, in Newcastle, Edward Chicken, was buried there, on the above day. He was a member of the incorporated company of weavers, Newcastle; twenty-five years clerk of St. John's church, in that town; and author of that very ludicrous and descriptive poem, intitled "*The Collier's Wedding*." Another piece intitled "*No! This is the Truth*," is attributed to Mr. Chicken. A new edition of "*The Collier's Wedding*," with notes, and a memoir of the author, was published by a gentleman of Newcastle, in 1829.



This cut shews the tower wherein the company of free weavers have their meetings. It formed an angle in the town's wall, but is now isolated, the wall having been removed for the formation of Bridge Street, &c.

September 3.—John Stewart, was executed at Morpeth, according to his sentence, for breaking Mr. Stokoe's shop, in the Castle Garth, Newcastle, and stealing goods; also for stealing a horse.

September 8.—Three men and one woman escaped out of Durham gaol, with their irons on.

September 24.—Died at Horse-gate, in the parish of Ryton, Mr. Robert Laws, farmer, in the 109th year of his age. He retained his memory and senses to the last.

October 9.—Frances Wrench was buried at Norton, near Stockton, in the 110th year of her age.

1747 (*Jan. 24*).—At ten o'clock in the morning, a fire broke out in Felton Hall, which burnt with great violence, and in four hours consumed the body of the house. The wind being moderate,

the two wings were saved from the flames, and all things of value were saved.

1747 (*April 15*).—The first market or show of black cattle, was held at Morpeth.

May 11.—As the Newcastle Merchant, Captain Scourfield, was coming up the river Tyne, to her moorings at the high crane, Newcastle, there happened to be a two pound ball in one of her guns, unknown to the captain or any of the crew, so that upon her firing, as was usual when ships came up the river, the ball was shot out, but happily did no other mischief than penetrating eight inches into a stone in the Exchange, and rebounding back upon the Quay.

August 28.—In the night, thirteen French prisoners made their escape from Tynemouth, by means of a hole which they had dug under the foundation of the prison into a garden adjoining. They went directly to Camboes, near Blyth, where the first four of them got into a boat, and made to a sloop lying there laden with iron, cut her cable, and went off to sea. The sloop was afterwards seized at the Brill, and, with her cargo of iron, sent back to the right owners. September 13th, three more of the French prisoners made their escape from their prison at Tynemouth. A fourth was taken in the hole as he was coming out.

November 2.—At a farm house, belonging to Mr. George Rippon, at Hamsteel, near Durham, a boy holding a candle, accidentally set fire to some straw in a barn, by which the barn, a stack of hay, and five stacks of corn, were entirely consumed.

By an inscription on the ~~own~~-hall, at Barnardcastle, that building was erected this year at the expense of Thomas Breaks, esq., a native of that town.

This year, died, John Millot, esq. of Whitehill, near Chester-le-street. He was a man of very singular habits and conversation, as appears from a curious old screen still preserved at Whitehill, on which several of his exploits are depicted. In one compartment he is hunting, in another drinking and smoking, in a third he appears as a successful gambler, and seems to be enforcing payment of his winnings by an appeal to a brace of pistols; and, to omit some other adventures, in the second compartment, his game cock is clapping and crowing, having "won the 100 guineas at Newcastle, March 31st, 1746," whilst three rivals, Dunn, Brandling, and Bates, lie dead at his feet, and a craven-cock, inscribed Farrer Wren, esq., is running away.

1748 (*March 24*).—This morning, died, the Rev. Robert Thomlinson, D.D., rector of Whickham, in the county of Durham, prebendary of St. Paul's, London, and lecturer of St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, aged 79 years. He was a gentleman of great learning and distinguished judgment, his conversation easy, open, instructive, and adorned with such a modest and agreeable cheerfulness, as endeared him to all who had the happiness of his acquaintance. He was an excellent preacher, and an ornament to religion; ever delighting to instruct the ignorant, and always ready to help the poor and needy. His extensive charities both public

and private, will serve as lasting monuments to this truly pious and good man. His library, which was very large, he left to augment that in the church of St. Nicholas, in Newcastle. He was blind for some time before his death, so that cords were placed to enable him to go to and fro in his apartments. His widow died at Wickham, December 16th, 1769, in the 102d year of her age.

1748 (*July 11*).—About two o'clock in the morning, a fire broke out in the house of Robert Newby, a barber, at Barnardcastle, which destroyed two houses before it was extinguished. The honourable Mr. Vane sent his engine and apparatus to the assistance of the inhabitants, which contributed greatly to the extinguishing of the flames. Mr. Vane very generously made a present of them to the town.

August 15.—Paul Coleman was executed at Durham, for robbing Mr. Hutchinson, attorney, of that city, of his watch, &c., and stopping Mr. Colling, with an intent to rob him. Coleman had been a chairman in London, and had come to the north for the purpose of highway robbery and house-breaking. He robbed Mr. Hutchinson on Elvet moor, near the city of Durham, he also took Mr. Hutchinson's horse, which was found the next morning, near Plawsworth. On searching his lodgings, at Newcastle, pistols, powder, slugs, and flints, were found. He was a desperate fellow upwards of six feet high.

September 18.—A fire broke out at a little village called Bowron, near Barnardcastle, which in a short time entirely consumed eight dwelling houses, several out-houses, and three stacks of hay.

Same day, a dreadful fire broke out at Blaydon, which burnt three houses with great fury, and had not great diligence and care been used in keeping the rest of the houses wet (the wind blowing very violently), all the south side of the village would certainly have been reduced to ashes.

September 23.—Died, in Newcastle, Catharine Ratcliff, aged 113 years, supposed at the time of her death to be the oldest woman in that town.

This year, the corporation of Newcastle, began, at their own expense, a large causeway, in the manner of the turnpike roads, 11 yards in breadth, across the moor of that town, by the way leading to Morpeth, in Northumberland. This was completely finished in 1749, under the direction of Mr. William Joyce, surveyor.

A play-house was built in Newcastle, upon part of the walls of St. Bartholomew's hospital, near the Nun's-gate. The entrance to the play-house was from the Turk's Head yard. The old wall was visible until the late erections of work-shops, &c. in the Nun's field. What is at present called the Nun's-gate, had formerly been the entrance to this Nunnery. Bourne says, "Opposite to this *Nunnery* on the west side of the street, is an *ancient building*, with a large *Gate*, which has formerly been a piece of stately workmanship. This, *Sir Robert Shaftoe*, recorder of this town, was of opinion, was the house of the Earls of Northumberland, and was called the *Earl's Inn*. *Grey* says it was called the *Scotch Inn*; because it was

there that the *kings, nobility, and lords, of Scotland*, lodged in time of truce or league with England."

1749 (*Jan. 2*).—This day, the duke of Newcastle's grand service of plate, valued at £400,000, was brought in a keel to the Custom-house in Newcastle, properly guarded from Shields, it having arrived there a few days before in a vessel from Holland. The next day a waggon loaded with it set forward for London, escorted by a party of dragoons.

January.—The beginning of this month, died at Longhorsley, in Northumberland, in the 71st year of his age, the Rev. Mr. Patrick Cockburn, vicar of that parish, a gentleman, who, if learning, piety, and a conscientious discharge of the ministerial duties were recommendations to preferment, would have appeared in a much higher station in the church. He officiated for some time in the Episcopal meeting-house at Aberdeen, where, both by preaching and writing, he was a strenuous defender of the revolution, and of his majesty's title to the crown. His ingenious and learned "*Vindication of the Mosaic Deluge*," was published after his death. About the middle of May the same year, died at Longhorsley, Mrs. Catherine Cockburn, relict of the above. She was quite a literary lady. Her theological, &c. works were published after her death, in 2 vols. 8vo., with a portrait and life by Birch.

January 7.—Died, in a very advanced age, David Hall, of Sandgate in Newcastle, better known by the name of *Blind Davy*, who, from frequently chaunting sonnets of his own composing, and from the similar misfortune of loss of sight, was often stiled the *Newcastle Homer*, and very probably sung through as many towns as the Grecian bard, and to as numerous auditories.

February 6.—About noon the proclamation of peace was read, by order of the magistrates, in the two public markets of Newcastle, by the sheriff's serjeant; the ceremony was performed with great solemnity, the magistrates appearing in their scarlet robes (attended by the officers in the town), marched in procession from one market place to the other, in the midst of loud acclamations from the populace who had plenty of strong beer given to them. The gentlemen, after the ceremony was over, went to the King's Head tavern, where the healths of his majesty, the royal family, &c., were drunk, and the evening was concluded with ringing of bells, and other demonstrations of joy.

March 5.—Between two and three o'clock in the morning a fire broke out in the shop of Mr. Catchside, a saddler on the bridge over the river Tyne, at Newcastle, which, notwithstanding all imaginable means were used to suppress it, in a short time entirely consumed the said shop and warehouse above it, together with the shop of Mr. Reavely, a hatter, next door. The flames were so rapid, that no goods could be saved in either place, nor even the shop books. The erections on Tyne bridge were chiefly of timber, which accounts for their rapid destruction.

April 25.—Being the day appointed for a general thanksgiving for the peace at Newcastle, the morning was ushered in with ring-

ing of bells. About ten o'clock, the magistrates, in their scarlet gowns, accompanied by a great number of gentlemen, and attended by all the town's officers, proceeded from the exchange to St. Nicholas' church, where a sermon was preached by the Rev. T. Turner, A. M. vicar, from Jer. xlvii. ver. 6. After which, they returned to the Exchange, where three companies of Colonel Bockland's regiment were drawn up, who fired three volleys amidst the loud huzzas of the populace, and received a handsome present from the magistrates, who then went up to the Merchants' Court, where an elegant entertainment was provided, at which were drank the healths of his majesty, and all the royal family, to a lasting peace, success to commerce, &c. About five in the afternoon, they returned down to the Sandhill, where a fountain was erected, on the top of which was placed an imperial crown; on the side facing the Court, was written in letters of gold, GOD SAVE THE KING, and from two other sides, there ran wine for a considerable time, which was (after the magistrates had each drank a glass) free for the populace. At night there was a grand assembly; the whole town was illuminated in a very extraordinary manner; several fire-works were played off from the top of the castle, on the top of which were placed in *fire letters*, G. R., with a crown over them, and bon-fires were made in several parts of the town. In short, notwithstanding the great concourse of people, the evening concluded without the least disorder.

1749 (*June 11*).—This day (Sunday) being the anniversary of his majesty's accession to the throne, the celebration of it in Newcastle was deferred till the following day; the morning of which was ushered in with ringing of bells, &c. At noon, three companies of Colonel Bockland's regiment were drawn up before the Exchange on the Sandhill, and fired three excellent volleys. The right worshipful Walter Blackett, esq. mayor, the recorder, aldermen, and common council being present, they drank his majesty's health, and gave money to the soldiers to do the same. After which, a great number of gentlemen, both of the town and from the country, dined at the Mansion-house, where there was an elegant entertainment provided. After dinner, a number of loyal healths were drunk, the military firing between each. In the evening there was a splendid appearance of ladies and gentlemen at the *New Theatre* in the Turk's Head Inn Yard, to see the *Fair Penitent* performed; from whence the gentlemen departed, and met with many others of distinction at Mr. Recorder's club, at Mr. Ewbank's, in Pilgrim Street, to pass the rest of the evening in social cheerfulness, and to view the fire works which had been prepared to celebrate the general peace (April 25), but which were postponed to be played off this evening, upon a scaffold erected for that purpose in front of Plummer tower, in the Carliol Croft, which occasioned a vast concourse of spectators; about nine o'clock a guard of soldiers were placed at proper distances surrounding the scaffolding to keep off the crowd. The ladies and gentlemen were placed in the houses and gardens on the east side of Pilgrim Street,

and the Croft afforded sufficient space for the other spectators, so that every one had a full view of the fireworks, which were commenced playing off a little after ten o'clock, and continued till near one o'clock in the morning. They consisted of 10 dozen of sky-rockets; 13 sun or Catherine wheels; 12 double line rockets; 2 horizontal or Italian wheels; 2 flying wheels; 1 ground wheel runner; 2 serpent mines; 4 large balloons; 2 star mines; 1 conical or bell fountain; 1 artificial sun; 2 Hercules' clubs; 6 land rockets; 2 fire trees; 2 equilateral fountain lights; 2 pyramidal fires; G. R. in fire letters, with a crown above them, &c. They were executed by one Mr. Barker, a schoolmaster, in Newcastle, and gave general satisfaction.

1749 (*June*).—A survey was made from Newcastle to Carlisle, under the authority of government, for the projected military road between those places. This road was commenced making near the Westgate, Newcastle, July 8th, 1751.

July 12.—Thomas Younghusband, esq., of Budle, in Northumberland, with his gardener and gamekeeper, accompanied by Mr. Errington and a cobleman, having been shooting on the Fern Islands, the coble unfortunately upset on their return to land, by which accident, Mr. Younghusband, his gardener, and the cobleman, were drowned.

August.—A grant passed the great seal, to Mr. William Newton, of Burnopfield, and Mr. Thomas Stokoe, of Bryan's Leap, in the county of Durham, both gentlemen of great experience in the coal works, for a new invented method of drawing coals, stones, &c. out of deep pits or mines.

October 30.—Being the anniversary of the birth day of King George II. when he entered into his 67th year, great rejoicings took place at Newcastle, and all the neighbouring towns. The rejoicings at Raby castle, deserve peculiar notice. The day was celebrated there in a very extraordinary manner. Most of the gentlemen of the county, and many out of Yorkshire and Northumberland, being assembled there for that purpose, and who were entertained after a very splendid manner, by the honourable Sir Henry Vane, bart., M. P. for the county of Durham, and one of the lords of the treasury. Among other public demonstrations, the exhibition of fire works, from a stage erected in front of the castle, was of the most splendid kind. On the front of the stage facing the castle, were shewn the king's arms, with figures of peace and plenty, as large as life. The fire works were made by Mr. George Terry.

November 4.—Died, at his house at Elswick, Mr. John Hodgson, linen draper, of Newcastle, and a considerable coal-owner, on the river Tyne. The following is the character given of this gentleman, in a newspaper of that time:—"He was a man of excellent talents in business and unwearied in their application, which he prosecuted through a great variety and extent of affairs, with uncommon ease, calmness, and regularity; proceeding without bustle or noise, and successful without pride or ostentation; and, as he always observed the strictest probity and honour in his dealings,

managing with care and circumspection; exact in his accounts, and punctual to his engagements, his conduct obtained the highest credit and confidence, and he was universally beloved. During the time of his illness, an uncommon concern and solicitude for his recovery appeared among all ranks of people, which ended in a more general lamentation for his death, than what usually accompanies that of a private person. He was, indeed, a most worthy example in every part of life, a great benefactor to his country, by promoting its commerce, and a happy support to many families concerned in his employments; a courteous and affable acquaintance; a kind and beneficent neighbour; a firm and hearty friend; a tender and affectionate husband, and a most loving and indulgent father. The general respect he so justly merited, occasioned a large number of gentlemen and others, to pay the last solemn mark of it by attending his corpse to the place of interment, in the Quaker's burial ground, in Pilgrim Street."

1749 (*Dec.* 10).—Ruth Nicholson was buried at Hartlepool, in the county of Durham, aged above 103 years.

December 25.—A gentleman of Newcastle, having invited Geo. Clark, commonly called *Skipper Clark*, bellman of Newcastle, to his Christmas dinner, he set him down to seven sheep's plucks he had provided for his dogs. George ate four of the plucks, a pound of bread, three quarts of broth mixed with an ounce of jalap, a quart of small beer, and a pint of ale. He would have ate all the plucks, had he not been shamed out of it by some gentlemen who had been invited to eye witness this swinish transaction. It is proverbial at the present day, to call any person with a voracious appetite, *Skipper Clark*.

This year, Mr. Francis Armorer, of Newcastle, coal fitter, had living three brothers and one sister, whose united ages amounted to 360 years or thereabouts, and were healthy persons.

1750 (*Feb.* 12).—There was launched from Mr. Headlam's yard, on the river Tyne, in the presence of a great number of spectators, a fine vessel capable of carrying upwards of thirty keels of coals, and was said to have been the largest vessel built on that river. It was called "The Russell," in compliment to one of the owners.

March.—A very serious riot among the keelmen of Newcastle, commenced this month. April 27th, several unknown persons, assembled in the fields, near Newcastle, and from a style proclaimed King Charles, king of England, &c. The corporation of that town, as appears from the following advertisement, offered a reward of £100. for the discovery of the offenders:—"April 28, 1750. Newcastle upon Tyne.—Information upon oath having been made this day, before five of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said Town, that yesterday, between the hours of twelve and one o'clock at noon, several persons, to the informant unknown, and who appeared by their habits to be keelmen (and who, as the informant verily believes were keelmen), were seen in one of *Elswick* Fields, near this Town, and that one of the said persons, in com-

pany with about five others stood up on a style and said, *I proclaim Prince CHARLES king of England, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith; and let every one of my way of thinking, say, Amen; or used words to the like effect.* And that thereupon, several of the other persons, to the number of four at least, immediately rose up and said, *Amen.* The Corporation of Newcastle hereby promise a Reward of One Hundred Pounds, to any Person or Persons who shall discover the Person making the said Proclamation, or any of the Persons saying, *Amen,* as aforesaid, to be paid by the Town Clerk upon the Conviction of such offender or offenders. By Order of the Magistrates.—CUTHBERTSON." The keelmen who had made a stand for seven weeks on pretence of grievances, and who during that time had been very refractory and riotous, commenced working on the 7th of May. Several of the most riotous were tried at the assizes in August, and convicted; some had three months' and others one month's imprisonment, and to find securities for their future good behaviour. The following are the names of the convicted rioters, viz. :—Thomas Gibson, publican; and John Coates, three months; Benjamin Tate, James Stephenson, James Wanley, and Michael Petre, one month. This riot cost the hoastmen of Newcastle a considerable sum of money.

1750 (*April 5*).—The chapel at Tanfield, in the county of Durham, (having been rebuilt and enlarged by voluntary subscription,) was opened, and a sermon suited to the occasion was preached by the Rev. Mr. Wilson, from Exodus xx. 24. "*In all places where I record my name, I will come unto thee, and I will bless thee.*"

April.—Died, Sir Chaloner Ogle, commander-in-chief of his majesty's fleet. He was born at Kirkley, in Northumberland. Being destined to try his fortune in the royal navy, he was very early advanced by his personal merit and courage to the command of the Swallow man of war, when he took Roberts, the famous pirate, on the coast of Africa, February 5th, 1722. For this service Captain Ogle was knighted the year following, and he afterwards rose to the highest stations in the navy, being appointed commander-in-chief of his majesty's fleet on the death of Sir John Norris.

April.—As some workmen were sinking a draw-well at Ebchester, a village near the river Derwent, they discovered a very remarkable piece of antiquity, which was supposed to have been an aqueduct to a Roman bath.

April 18.—Died, at his seat at Howick, in Northumberland, generally regretted, aged 58, Sir Henry Grey, bart. May 6th, about nine o'clock at night, by his own express desire, his remains were deposited in the family vault in Howick church. He was of a very charitable and beneficent disposition. Upon the site of an old decayed church, he erected a new one, of an elegant taste. He laid out £100. towards building a convenient school-house for the use of the poor children of the parish; and, to the former salary of £10. a-year to the master for teaching all the indigent children gratis, he added the interest of £200. yearly, for the master's better subsistence and encouragement. He also bequeathed the interest

of £100. to be given annually on his birth-day to the indigent inhabitants of the parish.

1750 (*May 3*).—The corpse of Mrs. Shaftoe, relict of Robert Shaftoe, esq. of Benwell, passed through Newcastle from London, in a mourning hearse, drawn by six horses, and embellished with escutcheons and emblems. The body was deposited in the family vault at Benwell. The now disused cemetery of that village was at that time a place of sepulture, and, in all probability, the chapel, now no more, would be then in existence.

1750 (*June 7*).—Was married, at Rothbury, in Northumberland, Mr. William Donkin, a considerable farmer of Tossin, in the same county, to Miss Eleanor Shotton, of the same place. The entertainment on this occasion was very grand, there being provided no less than 120 quarters of lamb, 44 quarters of veal, 20 quarters of mutton, a great quantity of beef, 12 hams, with a suitable number of chickens, &c., which was concluded with 8 half ankers of brandy made into punch, 12 dozens of cyder, a great many gallons of wine, and 90 bushels of malt made into beer. The company consisted of 550 ladies and gentlemen, who were diverted with the music of 25 fiddlers and pipers, and the whole was concluded with the utmost order and unanimity.

June 13.—Died, at Whitehouse, on Gateshead Fell, aged 105 years, Mr. Edward Colvil, father of the countess of Tankerville, and of Susan, the wife of Lionel Allan, esq. She died the 11th of January, 1782, having attained the advanced age of 92, and had outlived her husband, ten brothers and sisters, and buried ten children. Mr. Colvil's remains were interred in All Saints' Church, Newcastle, in the burial place belonging to the family. It appears that Colvil's Chare, (a lane leading from the Butchers' Bank to the Quayside) in the parish of All Saints, was so called in consequence of this family having property there.

June 18.—Died, at his seat at Blagdon, Matthew White, esq. He had been many years in the commission of the peace for the county of Northumberland. On the 21st his remains were taken in a hearse from Blagdon to his house in Newcastle, attended by all his tenants, &c. In the evening, his corpse was interred with great funeral solemnity, in the family vault in All Saints' church, in Newcastle.

July 24.—There was the most dreadful storm of thunder and lightning at Darlington that had ever been remembered by the oldest inhabitant of that place. The spire of the church was rent and shattered from top to bottom. On the north-west side of it, about three yards from the top, the stones were thrown quite out, so as to lay the inside open for a space of about four yards; betwixt this breach and the bottom were several others, but not quite so large, besides, the church itself was so much damaged, that divine service could not be performed in it until the spire was entirely taken down and the church repaired. The spire, which was a very lofty one, was reckoned the highest and most complete piece of that kind of workmanship in the north of Eng-

land. By the same storm, many houses were shattered and laid open, and people struck, but none killed.

1750 (*July 24*).—About eleven o'clock at night there broke out the most dreadful fire ever known in Newcastle. It began at the bottom of an entry in the Close near Tyne bridge, in a cellar made use of for a warehouse, situated on the side of the river where the buildings stood extremely crowded together, and without any wharf or quay between them and the water, which made all approach for assistance more difficult and dangerous. The most probable occasion of the fire was, an innkeeper's brew-house and a merchant's cellar lying contiguous on that side where the brewer's copper stood, and the partition being but a few inches thick, the bricks were so intensely heated by the flame of the furnace then at work, that some combustible goods, placed against the heated wall, took fire, which spread through the cellar, and had burst with violence into the open air before it was discovered. Above this cellar was the dwelling-house and warerooms of an eminent bookseller, (Mr. Martin Bryson) who was from home, but his servants very narrowly escaped being burnt, the floors falling into the flames a few minutes after they had quitted their beds. By this time the inhabitants of the town were sufficiently alarmed, and all possible assistance was given. The adjoining houses were unroofed, and chimneys and walls pushed down upon the flames to smother the growing fire. The streets were broke up, and plenty of water obtained, which was incessantly plied by engines and buckets. In the mean time, all the goods and furniture that could be come at were removed, and placed under proper guards to secure them from the evil-disposed. The presence of the magistrates and the officers and soldiers of Lord Ancram's regiment, then quartered in Newcastle, were particularly serviceable, but notwithstanding, about ten dwelling-houses and a great many warehouses, with abundance of goods and furniture, were entirely consumed before eight o'clock the next morning, when its ravages were checked. The damage was computed at £10,000. Had there been a wind instead of a calm, in all probability the whole of the Sandhill, and, perhaps, the greatest part of Newcastle would have been laid in ashes. There was a liberal subscription for the sufferers, which, on the 18th of March 1751, was distributed as follows:—To the two children of Mr. Benjamin Heslop, then deceased, £370., Mr. John Shaw and sister, £250., Mr. Martin Bryson, £70., Mr. James Hume, £30., Margaret Young, servant to Mr. Bryson, £30., Jonathan Haswell, a flax-dresser, £20., John Pearson, servant to Mr. Harrison, £20., Mrs. Katherine Jefferson, £8., and Robert Maclean, £8.

July 25.—The golden arrow was shot for at Darlington by fourteen archers, and was won by John Bowes, esq., captain. The hon. Thomas Vane was lieutenant.

August 18.—A terrible fire broke out at one Robson's, who kept an ale-house near the church in Bellingham, Northumberland. It burnt with great fury for some hours, during which time twenty-

seven houses were reduced to ashes, the families of which lost most of their effects, some saving only what they had on their backs. During the conflagration, the barn, byers, &c., of John Reed, esq., narrowly escaped, they having taken fire three times. The fire was occasioned by Robson having put some straw into a large chest in which they used to keep their oatmeal, (it being customary before they put down their new meal, to set fire to a wisp of straw, in order to make it sweet, destroy the mites, &c.,) and, being in liquor, lighted it, shut the lid, and came down stairs. Some time after, his wife and he went to bed, not remembering what he had done; they awoke about twelve o'clock almost stifled with smoke, and he then, but too late, bethought himself of the chest. He endeavoured to go up stairs to fetch down some cash which he recollected they had in the house, but in the attempt the floor fell in with him, and he perished in the flames. His wife escaped in her shift. William Charlton, of Redesmouth, esq., had twelve houses consumed, notwithstanding which, he generously distributed handsome sums among the unhappy sufferers, and ordered that they should be provided with necessaries.

1750 (*August 27*).—James Macfidum, *alias* Macfarlane, was executed at Durham, for robbing Robert Hopes, a boy about ten years old. He died penitent, but denied being guilty of the act for which he was about to suffer. The robbery was as follows: on the 8th of the preceding January, the boy on his way to school over Whickham common, passed a man with a woman sitting on his knee, who asked him which way he was going? the lad answered, to school, on which the fellow caught hold of him, carried him into an adjoining hollow, and stripped him of all his clothes except his breeches and shoes, threatening to cut his throat if he cried out. As soon as the boy was at liberty, he crept through a hedge and ran to his father, who was at work at a little distance, who alarmed the neighbourhood, pursued and took the fellow. He was immediately taken before the Rev. Mr. Lamb, who committed him to Durham gaol. The fellow pretended to be dumb when before the magistrate, but the boy reminded him of the speech he made when he threatened his life. This man and woman were part of a *gang of Faws*, who, for many years, had infested that neighbourhood.

August 27.—From the lapse of time, and the shocks it had sustained in ancient wars, Alnwick castle was become quite a ruin, when, by the death of Algernon, duke of Somerset, it devolved, together with all the estates of this barony, &c., to the earl and countess of Northumberland. On the above day, the earl and countess, with a splendid retinue, passed through Newcastle for Alnwick. At Felton they were met by a great number of gentlemen and all the principal inhabitants of Alnwick, who accompanied them to the castle, the ancient seat of the family of Percy. Both the town and the neighbourhood was a scene of festivity on the occasion. The earl immediately began to repair the castle, and with the most consummate taste and judgment, restored and embellished it as much as possible in the true Gothic style.

Thirteen years after this time, the repairs and alterations were still going on. The effigies in stone, of warriors, &c., which crowd the battlements of this august castle, were executed by the late Mr Johnson, of Stamfordham, and engaged him upwards of twenty years.

1750 (*December 19*).—Sir Walter Blackett, bart., the right worshipful the mayor, and many other gentlemen and tradesmen of Newcastle, met at Mr. Ewbanks, in Pilgrim Street, when a very large subscription was made towards establishing a *herring fishery chamber* in that town.

About this year the town-house or guildhall at Hartlepool was built. The court-room is about 50 feet in length, by $22\frac{1}{4}$ in breadth, and 15 in height.



1751 (*Jan. 4*).—The two curious engines for extinguishing of fire, which had been purchased of Mr. Nuttal, of Long-Acre, London, by the corporation and Trinity-house of Newcastle, were played off on the Sandhill, in that town, with great applause. That belonging to the corporation discharged 170 gallons of water in a minute, at 160 feet distance. They were played off again on the Sandhill on the 28th. by the maker, Mr. Nuttal.

January 19.—A fire broke out in the mill at Carr's-hill, on Gateshead Fell, belonging to Mr. Sissons, of Newcastle, which entirely consumed the same. It was supposed to have been set fire to, as a reward was offered for the apprehension of the offenders.

February 7.—The frost was so intense at Newcastle, that a wherry, containing two men, was blocked up in the ice in the middle of the Tyne, where the men were obliged to remain and endure the severity of the cold till next morning, when they walked ashore upon the ice.

February 9.—The Infirmary at Newcastle rose out of a small respectable society, who were about to discontinue their stated meetings; but, previous to their doing so, wished to leave some permanent memorial of the society having existed. Mr. Richard Lambert, an eminent surgeon, and a member of this body, suggested the establishment of an Infirmary, which met with the unanimous concurrence of the meeting. The first subscription was begun for carrying the plan into effect on the above day. May 23d, a temporary house in Gallowgate was opened for the reception of patients. The governors, &c. met at the Exchange, and went in

procession to St. Nicholas' church, where an excellent sermon was delivered by the Rev. Arch-deacon Sharp, from Luke x. 36, 37. September 5th, the right reverend the bishop of Durham, as grand visitor of the Infirmary, accompanied by a great number of gentlemen, who were assembled at the anniversary of the Sons of the Clergy, went in procession to the Forth Banks, where the foundation stone of a new building was laid, amidst the acclamations of a great concourse of people; after which, his lordship made a present of five guineas to the workmen. A plate of copper was deposited in the stone with the following inscription:—"The foundation of this Infirmary was laid on the 5th day of September, in the 25th year of the reign of King GEORGE the Second, 1751, by the Right Reverend JOSEPH, Lord Bishop of Durham, Grand Visitor." On the reverse, "The Ground was given by the CORPORATION of NEWCASTLE, RALPH SOWERBY, Esq., Mayor, WILLIAM CLAYTON, Esq., Sheriff." There were present on this occasion, Ralph Sowerby, esq., mayor of Newcastle, Sir Walter Blackett, bart., and George Bowes, esq., presidents; Matthew Ridley, Matthew White, and Christopher Fawcett, esqrs., vice presidents; and most of the clergy and gentry of distinction in the three counties. The building was completely fitted up, and opened for the reception of patients, Oct. 8th, 1752. It was computed to have cost upwards of £3000. It has been considerably extended. *See Sept. 23d, 1801.* This cut shews the east end of the building, which part is at present (1830) being raised a story higher.



1751 (*Feb. 12*).—Mr. Gilchrist, aged 103, was interred at St. Nicholas church, in Newcastle. He was born in the reign of King Charles I., consequently he had lived in the reigns of seven monarchs of England, besides Oliver Cromwell's protectorship, and that of his son Richard.

March 20.—On the arrival in Newcastle of the intelligence that his royal highness the prince of Wales (father of king George III.) had died on the above day, all public diversions were put a stop to, the pulpits in the various churches and the mayor's pew were hung with black cloth, and every other token of mourning and respect was exhibited.

March 24.—In heating an oven in a gentleman's house, near the new church at Sunderland, the fire took hold of some wood adjoining, when a woman servant went running into the church (being Sunday), calling out fire! fire! on which all the congregation made the best of their way to the door in the utmost confusion, and in their hurry to escape, broke the font, of very curious workmanship, all to pieces.

March 26.—The mayor, aldermen, and the other magistrates of Berwick, attended in their robes at the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Town-hall and steeple, for a peal of eight bells. When the mayor deposited a piece of gold under the stone, the healths of the royal family, the representatives in parliament, and success to the building, were drunk amidst joyful acclamations.

April 24.—A fire broke out in a bake-house at the foot of Silver Street, Newcastle, known by the name of Freeman's bake-house. The two new engines were there, and played with great success, the fire being prevented from doing much damage.

May.—In pulling down the old chapel at Cornhill, in Northumberland, there was found about three feet lower than the old foundation, a coffin of stone, about eight feet long, in which were two urns of coarse pottery, and the shank bones and skull of a person of great size.

1751 (*June 18*).—A fire broke out at Darras-hall, near Ponteland, in Northumberland, in the bake-house of Mr. Ralph Donkin, which in a few hours consumed the same, his dwelling-house, Mr. Codling's house adjoining, and all the out-houses and furniture belonging to both.

June 28.—The right Rev. Joseph Butler, lord bishop of Durham, arrived at his palace in that city. He was met at some distance from the town by the clergy, a great many persons of distinction in that county, and most of the principal inhabitants of that city. July 4, the mayor, recorder, aldermen, and sheriff of Newcastle, went to Durham to congratulate his lordship on his arrival, when they were received by his lordship in a very courteous manner, and magnificently entertained. July 17, his lordship arrived in Newcastle to hold his primary visitation. His lordship was met on the road by the rev. the vicar and clergy of that place, with the proper officers belonging to the several churches, who attended him to St. Nicholas' church, when, as soon as divine

service was ended, his lordship began to confirm. On the following day his lordship held his visitation, and an excellent sermon was preached on the occasion by the Rev. T. Turner, A. M., vicar, from the 26th chapter of Acts, verse 29. After his lordship had remained two days at the Mansion-house (being invited by the magistrates), he set out to visit the northern parts of his diocese.

1751 (*July 20*).—Died, at Newcastle, Mr. Thomas Denham, formerly a brewer in that town, aged 104 years.

July.—As Sir Henry Grey, bart., was shooting near the Cheviot hills, in Northumberland, he shot a very large eagle which had siezed his dog in its talons, and was in the act of carrying it off, had Sir Henry not put a stop to its flight. The people in that neighbourhood had suffered great damage from this eagle among their lambs, one person lost lambs to the value of £6.

August 21.—Richard Brown, a keelman, was executed on the town-moor, Newcastle, for the murder of his daughter, 17 years of age, by throwing her down stairs on the preceding 10th of November. At the gallows he endeavoured to take off the weight of his guilt by alleging he had no intention to take away her life, and that he was so much inebriated at the time he perpetrated this horrid scene, that he could not recollect several barbarous circumstances with which he was charged.

August 27.—Between ten and eleven o'clock at night, an unfortunate affair happened in the house of David Shield, innkeeper, in Newcastle. Mr. Henry Douglas, who had been a surgeon in the navy, having some words with a sailor, named Edward Holliday, blows ensued, and the former was unluckily killed. Mr. Douglas' father, who was a younger brother of a family of consequence in the shire of Selkirk, in Scotland, gave him a liberal education, and bred him a surgeon. He entered the navy in 1710, served till the peace in 1712, and soon after was employed as surgeon-major to a regiment of foot, but, happening to marry, quitted it for home practice, which he discharged with success and approbation, until another war called him back to the fleet. On the return of peace, he came to Newcastle, living on his half-pay, and such practice as occurred. In his person he was about six feet high, and exceedingly well proportioned, a man of intrepid courage, good sense, real friendship, and genteel address. He was entering upon his 60th year when killed. At the ensuing assizes Holliday was tried and acquitted.

November 7.—A subscription was opened in Newcastle for carrying on the whale-fishery in the Greenland seas, Davis' Straits, and seas adjacent, when a large sum was subscribed for that purpose.

November 27.—About six o'clock in the morning, a fire broke out in Humble's buildings, at the head of the Flesh-market, Newcastle, but by timely assistance, it was extinguished without much damage.

This year an order of common council was made, that the boundaries of the town of Newcastle by land should be preambulated once in three years, which has been observed in general ever

since. The circumference is ten miles and fifty yards. The river boundary is annually performed.

1752 (*Feb. 7*).—The felons in Morpeth gaol, having got their irons filed off, made a bold attempt at escape. They came all down stairs in a body, seized the gaoler and turnkey, used them in a barbarous manner, and threatened to kill them if they did not deliver up the keys; they likewise used the gaoler's wife and sister very ill, but on their calling out murder, the neighbours came to their assistance, which prevented their escape or doing further mischief. Shortly after, one Peter Brown was committed to gaol for having furnished the felons with files, &c. His brother was transported in 1744 for breaking into Ovingham church.

February 24.—Captain Grey was killed in a duel with Lord Lempster, in a field between Mary-le-Bone basin, and the sign of the Angel, London. Captain Grey was of the Howick family.

April 13.—The following felons from Morpeth gaol were put on board the Owners' Goodwill, Captain Moorland, in order to be transported to South Carolina, for seven years, viz.:—Robert Armstrong; J. Fall, and Margaret his wife; William Fall, and Jane his wife; Robert Clark, and Elizabeth his wife; James Robertson; James Cowburn *alias* Cockburn; Dominick M'Connel; Alice, wife of Robert Gibson; Jane Gregg, widow; Elizabeth, wife of J. Wilson *alias* Taylor; Thomas Kimmins; Peter Brown; Jane Campbell *alias* Wilson; and Jane Gregg, *junior*. Armstrong was the person that used the gaoler and his wife and the turnkey so barbarously. These felons were part of the very numerous gangs of *Faws* who infested the county of Northumberland, and who were incessantly shop-breaking and plundering. Fourteen were advertised as having returned within two years, and were again lurking about Northumberland. See *April 18, 1767*.

April 14.—Robert Shaftoe, of Benwell, esq., was married to Miss Camilla Allan, of the Flatts, in the county of Durham; a lady of fine accomplishments with a fortune of £20,000. This lady had three sisters who carried equally large fortunes (uncommon sums in those days) to their husbands, viz.:—Dorothy Allan, married to James Garland, of Michael Stow Hall, county of Essex, esq., Susan Allan married to Ralph Jenison, of Walworth, county of Durham, esq., M. P., for Northumberland, and master of the stag hounds to King George II., and Margaret Allan married to Jenison Shaftoe, of Wratting Park, county of Cambridge, esq., M. P., for Leominster.

April.—Some workmen digging for a cellar, &c., near the castle in Newcastle, found a great number of human bones about seven or eight feet from the surface of the earth. From the quantity of bones found and the manner in which they were lying, it was conjectured that a number of bodies had been buried together in a hole dug for that purpose during some siege of the castle. They also found a stone coffin, and by the remains in it, it was evident that a person of extraordinary size had been deposited there.

1752 (*May 6*).—About two o'clock in the afternoon, a fire broke out in the west wing of that most magnificent edifice at Seaton Delaval, the seat of George Delaval, esq., and in a short space of time this part of that beautiful structure was destroyed by the conflagration. See *January 3, 1822*.

May 12.—The first market for black cattle and sheep was held at Alnwick, in Northumberland, on this day (Tuesday). Out of an immense number of black cattle and sheep which were there, very few remained unsold. The concourse of people assembled on the occasion was very numerous.

May 15.—A fire broke out in Rock Hall, near Alnwick, formerly the seat of ——— Proctor, esq., but at that time tenanted by some farmers, which entirely consumed the same, and some of the families escaped with their lives so narrowly, that they saved nothing but the shirts upon their backs.

May 23.—About ten o'clock at night, some company went into Mr. Pinkney's, a publican, in the Bigg Market, Newcastle, when words arose between them and Ewan Macdonald, a recruit in General Guise's regiment of Highlanders, then quartered in that town; from words they came to blows, which caused some of the company to leave the room, but Macdonald followed them out, laid hold on one Mr. Robert Parker, a cooper, in the entry of the above house, and wickedly stabbed him with a knife in the neck, in so desperate a manner that he died immediately. When he returned to the house he abused several, and broke another man's arm. A file of musqueteers was sent for, who conducted the murderer to the guard-house, where he was confined till next day, when he was committed to Newgate. The coroner's inquest returned a verdict of *wilful murder*. September 28th, Ewan Macdonald was executed on the town-moor, Newcastle, pursuant to his sentence at the assizes. This most unfortunate young man, who was only 19 years of age, appeared all the time of his confinement deeply affected with a true sense of his guilt, and regretted much the murdered person, whom he declared to be no cause of the quarrel between him and another man named Parker, and who was also a cooper; but at the gallows his behaviour in endeavouring to throw the executioner from off the ladder, was unbecoming one just on the brink of eternity; however, as it was generally and *justly* believed that he had been grossly irritated to the perpetration of the crime for which he suffered, his unhappy end was pitied by every one. His body was taken to the Surgeons' Hall,* and

* It was said that after the body was taken to the Surgeons' Hall, and placed ready for dissection, that the surgeons were called to attend a case at the Infirmary, who, on their return, found Macdonald so far recovered as to be sitting up; he immediately begged for mercy, but a young surgeon not wishing to be disappointed of the dissection, seized a wooden mallet with which he deprived him of life. It was further reported, as the just vengeance of God, that this young man was soon after killed in the stable by his own horse. They used to shew a mallet at the Surgeons' Hall as the identical one used by the surgeon. I have thrown this note together from the report current some years ago, but which is now fast dying away.

there dissected and anatomised. The body, after dissection, was lectured upon by Mr. Hallowell, Mr. Stodart, Mr. Greenwell, and Mr. Lambert, surgeons.

1752 (*June 4*).—Was launched from Headlam's landing, upon the river Tyne, the Experiment, built by the gentlemen of Newcastle, subscribers to a West Indian trade. October 5, this vessel commanded by Captain John Scaife, sailed on her first voyage to Jamaica. June 13, 1753, the Experiment arrived in the Tyne from Jamaica, after a passage of eight weeks, bringing a cargo of sugar, rum, pimento, coffee, cotton, mahogany, and lignum vitæ, in return for the commodities and manufactures of Newcastle, which had been sent out.

June.—Died at Stanhope, in Weardale, Durham, Ann Myers, in her 106th year. She had her memory perfect to the last, and could read small print without the aid of spectacles until within two years of her death.

July 7.—The Newcastle Whale Fishing Company's ship, the Swallow, Captain Elliott, which sailed from that port on the 22d of the preceding March for Greenland, arrived safe in the river Tyne, having had the good fortune to take four whales, to the great joy of the adventurers, and to the general satisfaction of the whole town and neighbourhood, which was demonstrated by the ringing of bells, &c. See *November 7*, 1751.

July 11.—Seven of the gang of *Faws* who had been a terror to Rothbury and its neighbourhood, were apprehended and sent to Morpeth gaol, several more were pursued to the mountains, but could not be come at. Various of the goods belonging to the owners of shops which had been broken into at Morpeth, &c. were found in their possession.

July 12.—The new chapel at Cornhill was opened for divine service, on which occasion an excellent sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Sharp, archdeacon of Northumberland, from Ecclesiastes, chap. v. verse 1, "*Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God.*"

July.—Died, at Bath, John Bacon, of Northumberland, esq., F. R. S. and F. S. A., and one of the governors of Bethlem and Bridewell hospitals, to the former of which he gave, a short time before his death, £100. South Sea annuities, to begin a foundation for incurables, for whom there was no provision. A few hours before his death, he desired his friends to put him in his coffin, with his best wig on his head, a ruffled shirt, and stone buttons in the sleeves, a small ring on his finger, a laced waist-coat, and a plain coat, with black velvet breeches, a new pair of pumps with stone buckles, and a clean pair of white stockings; that he might be privately buried in the abbey church; and that his servants might support his pall in their liveries, all which was performed.

August 24.—There was a very heavy rain in the neighbourhood of Redesdale, in Northumberland, which continued without intermission for 60 hours. It was driven by a tremendous wind, which caused such land floods as had not been remembered for forty

years before. The damage done to the harvest was incalculable. Great quantities of corn were carried down the river Coquet, which, from its swollen state broke down the new bridge at Weldon Mill. The rivers Tyne and Wear were raised to such a degree, that all the contiguous low grounds were flooded to a great height, so that the standing corn was completely destroyed, and many stooks, together with hay, sheep, swine, &c., were all swept away by the torrent to the utter ruin of many of the farmers.

1752 (*Sept. 27*).—An order of the common council of Newcastle, was made on the alteration of the style, by an act of the 24 George II., that at the next quarterly payment at Christmas, eleven days should be deducted out of the salaries of all persons employed under them, who had £10. per annum or upwards; as also out of the several annuities, in order to make the same, in all succeeding years, payable on the nominal quarterly days payable by the new calendar.

October 18.—Lydia, widow of Robert Smith, mariner, aged 106, was buried at St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle.

November.—The workmen employed in making the military road to Carlisle, found a great number of curious Roman coins and medals, in the ruins of the old wall near Heddon. They had been deposited in wooden boxes, which were almost decayed; yet several of the medals were as fresh and fair as if but newly struck. Some were of silver, but the most part of copper, and a mixture of coarser metal. Several of the most curious were purchased by the Royal Society.

December 20.—The right worshipful the mayor, aldermen, and common council, of Newcastle, gave their assent to a request made by Edward Collingwood, of Chirton, esq., for leave to make a dock at the lower end of North Shields, for careening and repairing of ships.

1753 (*Jan. 24*).—Mr. William Maud, a wealthy merchant of Sunderland, having been on business at South Shields, which having executed, he mounted his horse on the evening of the above day to return home, but not arriving, every search was made for him; hedges, ponds, wells, ballast-hills, and the sea banks were examined, even the river Tyne was searched for a mile, but to no purpose. His horse, with saddle and bridle, was found within 300 yards of where he had been last seen. His disconsolate widow offered a reward of 50 guineas, his majesty also offered the like sum, and the honourable Henry Vane and George Bowes, esq. offered a reward of 50 guineas, for the apprehension of the murderer or murderers. March 22d, Mr. Maud's body was found by a country boy, in a runner of water near Boldon, not far from the roadside from Cleadon. The coroner's inquest sat upon the body the next day, and brought in a verdict of *wilful murder by persons to them unknown*.

February 17.—The river Tyne was swelled to a prodigious height by a thaw, when, by the impetuosity of the current, and the violence of the wind, all the ships in the harbour at Newcastle were driven from their moorings. Two of the largest stones on the

Quay, in which the rings were to moor the vessels, were torn up, and much other damage done. The river Wear rose higher than had been known before, and so suddenly, that most of the houses which stood on the banks were filled to the upper stories before the inhabitants had time to quit them. Several garden walls were thrown down. The river Tees rose to so great a height that incalculable damage was done; in some parts it rose 15 feet above high water mark, two arches of Shincliffe bridge were carried away, and the middle pillar was overturned by the strength of the current. At Croft, near Darlington, the turnpike-house was washed down, and about £50. of the road-money lost in the water. At Yarm, the Tees was so high, that it touched the covering of the shambles which stood in the main street; all the shops and warehouses were quite filled with water, and the damage done to the goods was computed at £7,000. By this flood there was a great loss of horses, cattle, &c.

1753 (*Feb. 25*).—About twelve o'clock at night a terrible fire broke out in Mrs. Rutter's malting, in Newcastle, which, in two hours, entirely consumed the same, with a considerable quantity of malt therein.

March.—Hugh, earl of Northumberland, was constituted lord lieutenant of the county of Northumberland, and of the town and county of Newcastle; as also vice-admiral of Northumberland and Newcastle, on the death of the earl of Tankerville. May 25th, the same year, his lordship was admitted to a personal freedom of the corporation of Newcastle.

May 12.—Died, in Newcastle, Margaret Hunter, aged 104 years. Her beverage was mostly water or milk, having never drunk more than two gills of malt liquor. She was interred at Gateshead church.

May 21.—A very particular wedding was solemnized at Bishopwearmouth between two young persons. All acquaintances and relations on both sides were invited to the nuptials. They set forward to church about half an hour past seven, preceded by three violins and a bagpipe. Seventy couple went hand in hand, all distinguished by blue cockades, besides an innumerable multitude which did not observe such just regularity. The bill of fare for dinner was as follows:—5 bushels of malt brewed for table beer, 10 bushels for ale, 16 quarters of lamb, 8 turkies, 10 green geese, 8 hams, 4 dozen of hens, 12 ducks, 20 quarters of mutton, 10 quarters of veal, 16 neat's tongues, a quarter of beef roasted whole, 20 stones of beef boiled, 6 bushels of white peas, 80 pounds of butter, 16 pies; the bride's pie was carried between two persons, on a hand-barrow to the bake-house; 20 gallons of brandy, 8 dozen of lemons, 7 stones of double refined sugar, 10 bushels of wheat, a hundred weight of tobacco, 6 gross of pipes, tarts, whip-posssets, cheese-cakes, and jellies innumerable. All things were carried on with the strictest order and decorum till near eleven o'clock at night, when the young couple were put to bed, with all the formalities of singing, throwing the stocking, and sack posset.

1753 (*June 2*).—A machine was going at this time at a colliery at Chaters-haugh, in the county of Durham, belonging to William Feareth, esq., invented by Michael Menzies, esq., (for which he had obtained an act of parliament to secure the property to himself,) by which coals were drawn up, not by the power of horses, but by the descent of a bucket full of water, of a weight superior to that of the coals drawn up, lifting a corf of above 600lb. weight out of a pit 50 fathoms deep in two minutes.

June 10.—The remains of Miss Kitty Allan, second daughter of George Allan, esq., of the Grange, were interred in the family vault at Darlington, with great funeral solemnity. The pall was supported by Sir Robert Eden, and Sir Ralph Milbank, bart., the Hon. Frederick Vane, the Hon. Thomas Vane, Wingate Puleine, Robert Shaftoe, Edward Milbank, and James Bland, esqrs.

June 25.—This day (Monday) the right worshipful Henry Partis, esq., mayor of Newcastle, gave an elegant entertainment at the mansion-house to the right hon. the earl of Northumberland, Lord Ravensworth, George Bowes, esq., and several other gentlemen, after which they went to the town's-court, and from thence accompanied the mayor to the moor, preceded by the proper officers, with the king's purse of 100 guineas to be run for on Newcastle race ground. It was won by a bay horse named Cato, belonging to George Bowes, esq., who generously presented the prize to the Corporation, for the purpose of purchasing a piece of plate for the mansion-house, in remembrance of his majesty's grace and favour. This being the first king's plate run for at Newcastle, it was computed that there were not less than 50,000 persons present. The piece of plate, now in the Mansion-house, is a silver cup with a suitable inscription.

July.—A fine portrait, painted in oil, of Dr. Benson, bishop of Gloucester, was presented by a subscriber to the Infirmary at Newcastle, to be placed in the committee-room of that building.

August 20.—Died at Norton, near Stockton, Jeremiah Moore, esq., aged 57. He was the last of his family, and had in the former part of his life suffered extreme hardships through the cruelty of his eldest brother, by whose means he was carried into Turkish slavery, and, at the time of his brother's death, was a common seaman in the navy, having been pressed in the Mediterranean, after he had made his escape from the Turks. As he had experienced ill fortune, when he came to his estate he converted it all into money and settled in the north, exercising acts of goodness to all his poor neighbours, to whom he left largely. Having no relations, he left to six gentlemen who had been kind to him in his adversity, £1,500. each, and to his housekeeper, Mrs. Ann Kendall, whom he made his executrix and residuary legatee, £3,000. in trust for her son. All the legatees were to receive their respective legacies at his house at Norton, on the first day of the following March, over a large bowl of punch, and they were yearly to commemorate that day as long as they lived, it being the anniversary of the day he escaped from slavery.

1753 (*August 25*).—A fire broke out in the dwelling house of Mr. Thomas Forster, merchant, in a village near Haydon-bridge, which burnt with such fierceness, that in a short time it consumed five or six dwelling houses, besides out-houses. Two or three days after the fire, Forster, having been suspected as the incendiary, cut his throat so that he died immediately.

August.—At the assizes in Newcastle, for the county of Northumberland, Job Lawson, innkeeper, John Walker, drover, and William Hall, schoolmaster, received sentence of death for committing a rape on the body of Elizabeth Hall, at Elsdon, by which cruel act she died in a few months. They were respited from time to time. January 9th, 1754, a general pardon arrived in Newcastle by express.

August.—A very handsome meeting-house was opened at Sunderland.

December 13.—As William Luckley, at Holy Island, an old man upwards of 80, was suppering his horses, the candle accidentally fell among the litter, which immediately taking fire, the stable was presently in a flame, and the wind blowing strong from the east, the houses thatched and the lofts full of hay, it broke out in an instant, and spread with such fury, that some of the people that were gone to bed, narrowly escaped in their shirts; and, notwithstanding the utmost assistance that could be made, in a very short time it consumed other three dwelling houses, with almost every thing therein, as well their wearing apparel as furniture, before it could be stopt; the sufferers, who were the said William Luckley, his son and daughter, Mary Morton, widow, and Thomas Watson, all people in reputable circumstances, being thereby reduced to absolute want, and rendered very great objects for charity.

December.—Died, at Long Benton, near Newcastle, Margaret Rochester, aged 107 years. She had lived all her life in that village, and retained her senses to the last.

1754 (*Jan. 11*).—The following prisoners made their escape from the gaol of Newcastle, viz.:—Henry Faulkner, *alias* Sharp; William Darby; Stephen Cock, *alias* Johnson; and George Drew. They had been furnished with implements which enabled them to break the prison.

The beginning of this month a ship was burnt in the Tees between Stockton and the mouth of that river. It was occasioned by the carelessness of a boy, who, having made a fire in the cabin, went on shore to amuse himself.

About the beginning of this year, that pleasing and ingenious writer, Dr. Oliver Goldsmith, at that time studying the profession of physic in the University of Edinburgh, having involved himself in unexpected difficulties, by becoming bond for a sum of money due from a fellow student, was obliged precipitately to leave Scotland. A few days afterwards he arrived in Sunderland, where he was arrested; but his case being made known to Mr. Laughline Maclane and Dr. Sleigh, he was soon delivered from the hands of

the bailiff, and took his passage on board a vessel to Rotterdam, when, after a short stay, he proceeded to Brussels, and shortly afterwards made a tour of a great part of Europe on foot.

1754 (*Feb. 7*).—Was rung, at St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, by the young society of ringers, 2520 changes of bob triples, in one hour and thirty-six minutes, being half the complete peal, which had never been performed there before, it being thought impossible for any society of ringers to complete the whole peal on these bells, by reason of the bad hanging.

March 18.—Died in Hornsby's Chare, Newcastle, Margaret Turnbull, in the 116th year of her age. She retained her faculties to the last, and until within four years of her death, could read small print without spectacles. She remembered the battle of Bothwell-bridge and various others, and had seen king Charles I. several times when a prisoner in Newcastle.

April 11.—As the ringers were about half way through a peal of grandsire triples on the bells of St. Nicholas', in Newcastle, the great bell unfortunately cracked, by which it was rendered useless. It was cast in the year 1622, and weighed 33 cwt. September 25th, this bell was taken down for the purpose of sending to London to be re-cast. When weighed at the High Crane, it was found to be 32cwt. 3qrs. and 14lb. good. December 20th, the new bell was landed on the Quay. It weighed 36 cwt.

June 3.—The workmen employed in Mr. Henry Peareth's woollen-cloth manufactory, at Gateshead, went in procession from that place to their employer's house, in Newcastle, each displaying the branch he was employed in, viz :—First, the men sorting wool, then followed the scrivener, the shearmen, the weaver, the dyer, and the boys making brushes, carrying two white rods in their hands, with music playing. The exhibition gave great satisfaction to all lovers of art and industry. This public parade was continued for many years.

June 29.—The following challenge appeared in the Newcastle Journal, viz :—“ I take the liberty after this publick manner, to acquaint the country, that Peter Ditchburn, of Mainsforth, in the county of Durham, will throw the long bowls, a pound and a-half weight, leap, and pitch the bang with any man in England, for ten or twenty pounds, and meet them at any place within twenty miles of Mainsforth aforesaid.” Query—Pitch the bang?

July 29.—The hospitals in the Manor Chare, Newcastle, for accommodating six poor widows of clergymen and merchants, six poor old bachelors, and six poor unmarried women, were commenced building. The fund for supporting the two latter being generously subscribed by Sir Walter Blackett, bart., one of the representatives and an alderman of Newcastle, and Thomas Davison, of Ferryhill, in the county of Durham, esq., each having given £1200. the interest of which to be applied to this charitable purpose. The first edifice (Mrs. Davison's for widows of clergymen and merchants) was built by the corporation in 1725, but that body being appointed patrons of this charity, as also of the hospitals of

Sir Walter Blackett, and Mr. Davison, a suite of apartments for the three institutions was erected. The foundation stone was laid by the right worshipful Henry Eden, esq., mayor, in the presence of a great number of gentlemen. The magistrates, in order to keep the above sums entire for the use before signified, undertook the charge of the building at the expense of the corporation. The workmen were very liberally regaled.

1754 (August 19).—Dorothy Catinby, of Love Lane, on the Quay, Newcastle, was executed on the town-moor there, for the murder of her bastard child. She behaved in a very penitent manner, but persisted to the last that she did not murder her child. The body, after hanging the usual time, was taken to the Surgeons' Hall, where it was dissected, and lectured upon by Mr. Hallowell, Mr. Stodart, Mr. Lambert, and Mr. Gibson, surgeons. Dorothy Catinby, who was a widow, left three children by her lawful husband, two sons and a daughter. The sons, it was said, after their mother's ignominious end, drowned themselves, and the daughter left her service in Newcastle, and went to a remote part of the kingdom, where she might live without reproach.

August 24.—A woman named Elizabeth Rochester made her escape from Durham gaol. She was one of the gang of *Faws*, or strolling depredators, who infested the northern counties at this period.

October 14.—William Weatherburn, pitman, belonging to Heaton, was married at All Saints' church, in Newcastle, to Elizabeth Oswald, of Gallowgate. At the celebration of this marriage, there was the greatest concourse of people ever known on a like occasion. There were five or six thousand at church and in the church-yard. The bride and bridegroom having invited their friends in the country, a great number attended them to church, and being mostly mounted double, or a man and a woman upon a horse, made a very grotesque appearance in their parade through the streets. The women and the horses were literally covered with ribbons. The reader will here be reminded of the scenes as delineated in "*The Collier's Wedding*" by Edward Chicken. There are no such doings among the colliers now a-days.

October 18.—The chapel and burial ground at the Infirmary, Newcastle, were consecrated by the bishop of Durham. An excellent sermon was preached there on the occasion by the Rev. Mr. Dockwray, jun, from Psalm ii. verse 2. The chapel was consecrated by the name of St. Luke. Mrs. Byne made a present of a silver flagon for the use of this chapel, and Lady Musgrave presented to the same chapel two pieces of silver plate, being a legacy left by Mrs. Hilton. This lady also presented an altar cloth and cushion, being the legacy left to St. John's church, in Newcastle, by Mrs. Hilton.

October 25.—Mr. Christopher Allison, merchant, was appointed conservator of the Scale, or Kale, Cross and butter market in Newcastle.

This year, the hall in the city of Durham, where the elections and public meetings are held, was rebuilt in its present state by

Henry Lambton and John Tempest, esqrs., then representatives for the city.

1754.—About this time a chapel of ease was built and endowed at Pensher, of which the rector of Houghton-le-spring is patron.

1755 (*Jan. 9*).—A fire broke out in a farm-house at Bedlington-park, tenanted by Mr. Thomas Embleton, which entirely consumed the same, with his furniture and part of his cattle, which reduced him almost to beggary.

February 28.—As Mr. Dawson, a sergeant-at-mace, in Newcastle, was riding at night through the Flesh-market of that town, his under jaw unfortunately catching a butcher's hook, and the horse going from under him, left him hanging a considerable time. A man coming up, procured immediate assistance, and got him off. He was dreadfully wounded but recovered.

April 10.—A complete peal of bob triples, consisting of 5,040 changes was rung in three hours, thirteen minutes, and a quarter, on the bells of St. Nicholas, in Newcastle. The above number of changes had not been rung there before, on account of the bad hanging of the bells. The magistrates, finding the deficiency, sent for Mr. Lawrence, a noted bell hanger of London, who hung them so effectually, that the peal was rung through with the greatest ease, considering the weight of the tenor bell which had recently been recast.

April 20.—Robert Watson, artist and engineer, was the son of Joseph Watson, a member of the Free Porters' Company in Newcastle, where Robert was born on the above day. At an early age he evinced such a fondness for drawing, that, after his education was finished, his parents apprenticed him to a coach painter. Fortunately his master's indiscretions* soon set him at liberty from a situation so ill suited to the sublimity of his genius; and leaving his native town, he went to London, where he became an industrious student in the Royal Academy. In 1778 he obtained the gold pallet from the Society for the encouragement of arts, for the best historical drawing. In 1780, he published under the title of "*An Anticipation of the Exhibition of the Royal Academy*," a critique on the best performances of our most celebrated artists, and which displays ample proofs of the versatility of his genius. The talents he displayed in this work procured him powerful patronage. During one of his annual visits to Newcastle, he happened to read Drs. Price and Priestley's friendly controversy on Materialism, which gave rise to his "*Essay on the Nature and Existence of the Material World*." The Monthly Reviewers bestowed great praise on this work. Shortly after this, he accepted a proposal made to him to go to India in the capacity of an engineer, and where he arrived in 1783, in time to procrastinate the defence of Fort Osnaburgh, for the garrison of which he obtained very honourable terms of capitulation, when he was seized with a fever, which terminated his existence in the 28th year of his age. On leaving England, he

* Mr. Watson's master was James Watson, a profligate Scotsman, who was herald painter to Mr. James Brewster, a respectable coach-maker in Newcastle.

left a tragedy in the hands of the managers of one of the London theatres, who, on their part, promised to bring it out as speedily as possible, but all the efforts of his friends, after his death, to recover the MS. proved unavailing. The large wood cut of St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, engraved by Mr. Charlton Nesbit, and for which he received a silver pallet from the Society of Arts, (*see May 27, 1798*), shews the house, with wooden posts in front of it, where Robert Watson's mother made and sold sausages for a livelihood in the latter part of her life. The female, throwing out water from a pail, is said to be Mrs. Watson. There is a portrait of Mr. Robert Watson, painted by himself, which is intended to be engraven.

1755 (*June 12*).—Upwards of 2,400 salmon were taken above bridge in the river Tyne, and sold in Newcastle at one penny, and a penny farthing per pound.

June.—As some labourers were digging for stones at Twizell, for the use of the turnpike road leading from Cornhill to Berwick, they found a stone coffin containing a human skeleton of an immense size. The skull was very large, and all the teeth were quite fresh and entire. There were several other bones in the coffin.

August 22.—Notes were first issued from the bank established in Newcastle. Dec. 1. the same year, notice was given "that the Newcastle bank" would be opened on this day "at the house, late Mr. Robinson's, in Pilgrim Street, where all business in the banking and exchange way would be transacted as in London." This old and respectable establishment is still in existence, under the firm of Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., Bigge, Gibson, and Co.

August.—The four old bells in Darlington church were recast, and two new ones added. They were hung and tuned by Mr. James Harrison, from Barrow, in Lincolnshire.

September 29.—Died, at Old Town, near Elsdon, in Northumberland, Mr. Matthew Reed, aged 104 years. The last thirty years of his life he was much afflicted with the rheumatism, for which he tried the hot baths and obtained some relief, but what was very remarkable, he used frequently during the last ten years of his life, even in the extremest frost, to bathe in a small rivulet on his own estate. He enjoyed all his faculties to the last.

October 10.—A terrible fire broke out in a barn, near Boldon, in the county of Durham, belonging to Mr. Brunton, which entirely consumed the same, with the corn and hay-stacks, &c. adjoining.

October 16.—A weekly newspaper, under the title of "The Newcastle Intelligencer," was commenced publishing on this day, (*Wednesday*), by William Cuthbert and Company, at the printing-house, in the Custom-house entry, Quay-side, Newcastle. It is a small folio, with three columns on each page. From an inspection of some numbers of this journal in the possession of Mr. Thomas Bell, land surveyor, it appears to have been continued between two and three years, but from the few advertisements contained in any of the numbers, I am led to suppose it met with only partial success.

1755 (*Nov. 8*).—That famous unlettered calculator, Jedediah Buxton, was at Newcastle, where he proved that the many wonderful accounts of his prodigious natural talents in arithmetical calculation by the strength of memory only, were not without foundation. He gave the product of 56,974 multiplied by 4,397 in about two minutes, and also gave the square root of 56,295,009 by barely repeating the numbers to him. Being asked how many hairs' breadths at 48 to an inch would reach from Newcastle to London, he answered in less than three minutes 833,310,720. He also computed within the same space of time that 84,372,710,400 guineas placed edgeways, would pave a turnpike road between the same places, nine yards wide, supposing each piece to be an inch broad and 1-15 of an inch thick. On the 9th, being Sunday, he perambulated Newcastle, in order to take the number of houses, and the acres on which it stood. John Buxton, the grandfather of this singular character, was vicar of Elmeton, a small village not far from Chesterfield, in Derbyshire; and his father, William Buxton, was schoolmaster of the same parish, where Jedediah was born, about the year 1704. Notwithstanding the profession of his father, Jedediah's education seems to have been totally neglected, for he was never taught either to read or write, yet by the clearness of his head, and amazing strength of memory, was able to work the most intricate questions in arithmetic, and to solve the most difficult problems. This extraordinary man would stride over a piece of land or a field, and tell the contents of it with as much exactness as if he had measured it by the chain. In this manner he measured the whole lordship of Elmeton, of some thousands of acres, belonging to Sir John Rhodes, and brought him the contents, not only in acres, roods, and perches, but even in square inches. After this, he reduced them for his own amusement, into square hair breadths, computing about 48 to each side of the inch, which produced such an incomprehensible number as appeared altogether astonishing. The only objects of Jedediah's curiosity, next to figures, were the king and royal family, and his desire to see them was so strong, that in the spring of the year 1754, he walked up to London for that purpose, but was obliged to return disappointed, as his majesty had removed to Kensington, just as he arrived in town. He was, however, introduced to the Royal Society, whom he called *the Volk of the Siety Court*. The gentlemen, who were then present, asked him several questions in arithmetic, to prove his abilities, and dismissed him with a handsome gratuity. He was also taken to see Richard III. at Drury Lane, where, instead of paying attention to the entertainment, he was engaged in counting how many words Garrick uttered, and the steps of the dancers. Born to no fortune, and brought up to no particular profession, Buxton supported himself and a wife and family by the labour of his hands as a countryman.

November 25.—There was constituted at Sunderland, a regular lodge of free and accepted masons, by virtue of a deputation for that purpose directed to Mr. James Smithson, jun., provincial, from the earl of Carnarvon, grand master; on which occasion an

excellent sermon was preached by the Rev. Mr. Barwise, of Dalton, one of the fraternity, who, with the rest of the brethren, in proper costume, went in procession to church. This lodge when first constituted, was No. 207, though now, from different intermediate erasements, is No. 146.

1755 (*Dec. 19*).—A fire broke out at Whitehouse, near Morpeth, which consumed eight cows and one horse.

1756 (*Jan. 13*).—In the burial register of Jarrow church, under this date, occurs "Francis Heron, king of the Faws."

January 18.—Died, at Ovington, in Northumberland, Isabella Simpson, aged 109 years. She retained all her senses to the last except her sight, which she lost several years before her death. She commonly spun lint or tow on the rock, until the last six years of her death, and was a remarkable pattern of industry.

January 29.—The right honourable Augustus, earl of Euston, grandson and heir-apparent to his grace the duke of Grafton, was married by the Rev. Mr. Newcome, to the honourable Miss Liddell, daughter of Lord Ravensworth, at his lordship's house, in St. James' Square, London. February 1st, they were presented to his majesty, and met with a most gracious reception. On the 19th, several very curious fireworks were played off from the castle of Newcastle, on account of this marriage.

January 30.—A pot was found with 142 pieces of Scots silver coin, about three hundred years old, in the ground belonging to George Smith, esq., of Burn-hall, in the county of Durham.

February 10.—One of the sergeants-at-mace of Newcastle, having an execution against Charles Cowling, coach-maker, without Pilgrim Street gate, went to apprehend him in his shop, but on taking him away, his son-in-law, Richard Curtis, rescued him. The officer then applied to the mayor for an escape warrant, and when he went back found the said Cowling and his son had secured themselves in the shop, and threatened to knock down the first man that forced open the door. On hearing this the officer got more assistance and broke open the shop, on which a scuffle ensued, and one of the bailiffs received a mortal wound with an axe, of which he died in a few hours; several others were also wounded, but the father and son were apprehended. At the assizes Curtis received sentence of death. Cowling was acquitted. Curtis was respited from time to time until the opinion of the judges was taken, ten of whom thought him guilty of murder, but in 1757, he was ordered to be transported for life. He died on his passage to America.

Brand's account is incorrect.

1756 (*Feb. 19*).—Died, at Westerhaugh, in Northumberland, Henry Collingwood, esq., aged 103. He was greatly beloved in his neighbourhood, and retained his senses to the last. His pall was supported by the eight following gentlemen, (the first five were his great great nephews), viz. :—William Fenwick, John Fenwick, William Swinburne, Ralph Soulsby, Edward Ward, Henry Ogle, esqrs., Mr. Thomas Forster, and Mr. Charlton. Twelve of his children and grand children attended as mourners.

1756 (*March 22*).—The heart and bowels of the right honourable James earl of Wemys, were buried in Norton church, in the county of Durham. The remains were buried with his ancestors at Wemys Castle, in Scotland, on the 8th of April.

May 22.—War was proclaimed against France at Newcastle by the sheriff's sergeant, at the usual places, viz. —on the Sandhill, the Flesh-market, and the White Cross, accompanied by the magistrates in their robes. The crowd was very numerous, who expressed their assent by loud huzzas and other loyal ejaculations.

1756 (*May 30*).—Died, Mrs. Elizabeth Elstob, aged 73, sister of William Elstob (*see March 3, 1715*), and born at Newcastle. This lady, distinguished as a Saxon scholar, is said to have owed the rudiments of her very extraordinary learning to her mother, whom, however, she lost at eight years of age. She accompanied her brother to Oxford, and was the companion of all his severe studies. She removed with him to London, and, in 1709, printed an English translation, together with her brother's Homily of St. Gregory. She also assisted him in an intended edition of Gregory's Pastorals. By Dr. Hicckes' advice she next undertook an edition of the Saxon Homilies; a few of these only were printed at Oxford in folio. In 1715 she published a Saxon grammar, for which Chief Justice Parker defrayed the expence of the types. After her brother's death Mrs. Elstob was reduced to teach a school at Evesham. She afterwards obtained a pension of twenty guineas from Queen Caroline, which ceased with her majesty's death, and Mrs. Elstob was again plunged into difficulties. Her latter days, however, were easy and comfortable, for, in 1739, she found a residence in the family of the duchess-dowager of Portland, and continued there till her death. Mrs. Elstob is described in her chamber at Bulstrode, as being surrounded with books and dirt. There is a portrait of this lady in the initial G of the Saxon Homily of St. Gregory.

June 5.—During a storm of rain, hail, and thunder, an awful flash of lightning struck the house of Thomas Lightfoot, situated near the North Tyne, at Chollorford-bridge. A chimney at the north end of the house was knocked down, and the gable in which it was built split as with a wedge; in the second story, a large hole was broke through the chimney into a bed-chamber, and the side wall facing to the west was broke through near the ground, about three yards south of the chimney above-mentioned, and the force appeared to have acted all up the inside of this wall, in a direct line for about a yard in breadth, to the top of the house; two breadths of paper-hanging were torn off in the parlour, and several holes broke in the plaster, but the nails which had fixed the paper were left; in the same room opposite to the chimney, there was a hole about half way through the wall as if made by a musket ball. A large nest of drawers stood against the side wall in the bed-chamber, the back of which was torn in pieces, the locks broke off and the whole case thrown down, the bed curtains were much singed, but no metal of any kind melted. The glass in this

room, the garret above, and in the parlour below, was all shivered and thrown to a great distance from the house. Eight persons who were sitting in the kitchen were struck down and thrown in contrary directions to the opposite sides of the room, but none of them received any serious harm, nor could they give any account of the circumstance, further than, that just before it happened, all was quite dark, and they heard a great noise like the report of a cannon; on their recovering they found a sulphureous smell. The roof of the stable was driven in, and three horses turned upon their backs in the stalls, one man was thrown upon a horse, and another turned round upon his feet. A man who was at a short distance in the fields, saw the appearance of two sheets of fire descending upon the house, but felt nothing.

1756 (*July 26*).—The populace in Newcastle honoured Admiral Byng by an effigy, set on an ass, elegantly decorated with proper labels, &c., preceded by a person on a mule, with a white standard, on which was this motto:—“*Oh, back your sails for God's sake, a shot may hit the ship.*” On each side of his hat was *Bung*, and round his waist was “*This is the villain that would not fight.*” Having paraded the town, the procession halted at the carrion burning place in the Flesh-market, where a gallows was erected, on which, after being severely treated, he was hung, the prepared funeral pile lighted, and he, with ignominy and reproach, was suffered to perish. At Gateshead, Shields, Sunderland, and other places, this noble admiral was similarly caricatured.

August 11.—About two o'clock in the morning a dreadful accident happened at Chaters-haugh colliery, on the river Wear. The foul air in one of the pits ignited, by which four men were instantly killed and torn to pieces. The explosion was so violent that a corf full of coals was blown up the shaft from a depth of 80 fathoms into the open air, and a vast quantity of coal dust and rubbish was thrown to a great distance, discolouring the surface of the ground round about. The explosion was so loud, as to be heard by people in their beds near two miles off, rumbling like thunder, or the discharge of many cannon. Had it happened an hour later, the whole of the workmen would have been in the mine, consequently the destruction of human life would have been dreadful.

September.—A young woman was attacked by two soldiers on Gateshead Fell, near the wind-mill, who attempted to rob her of her cloaths, &c., but not being able to accomplish that quietly, they threw her into an old coal-pit about 20 yards in depth, where she remained seven days before she was discovered. What was very miraculous, she had received no hurt in the fall, and had sustained herself with only the rain water that ran down the sides of the pit which she caught in her shoe.

October 7.—About one o'clock in the morning, a most violent hurricane came on at Newcastle and its neighbourhood, whereby several houses were blown down, others unroofed, and chimnies carried away. The damage on the river Tyne was deplorable;

about 40 keels were either sunk or driven to sea with several men on board, who were all lost. The *Welcome Messenger*, and the *Sarah* and *Margaret*, both of London, were driven to sea with their ports open, and lost. A Danish vessel, laden with iron for the factory at Swalwell, was sunk at Burdon's quay. The *Blessing*, of *Whitby*, was upset at *Jarrow* quay, and four boys drowned. The accounts from *Sunderland* were very shocking; above 40 keels were missing, and several ships were damaged and drove out to sea. The bodies of twelve men were found strewed along the shore. The destruction in the woods at *Gibside* will give a pretty accurate idea of the general devastation; trees out of number were destroyed, some torn away by the roots, others split to the bottom of their prodigious stems; many had their unwieldy boughs twisted off, and scattered on the tops of the neighbouring hills. The elegant banquetting house had its south front and roof much damaged, and the walks, lawns, and roads, were strewed with the effects of the storm. But what was very singular, the noble column which stands on an eminence, and at that time with all its scaffolding round it, being just then finished,* had not a rafter moved, while the strangest ruin was seen in the vallies and deepest shades, as if many whirlwinds had gathered together, and, with collected force, had aimed destruction at the most secure retreats; the noblest oaks being levelled to the ground, while the slender saplings that bent to the storm stood unhurt, save what were crushed by the cumbrous weight of their fallen neighbours. The destruction all over the country was awful in the extreme. Learn hence, O man! how soon may cease thy frail existence here, when bodies, firm as the durable oak, may perish at a blast.

1756 (*Oct 24*).—As the ferry-boat at *Sunderland* was crossing the river with about twenty passengers and a young horse on board, by the unskilful management of the two ferrymen, it was forced by the strong current under a ship's rope, which coming across the horse, he was thrown down, and the people sallying the same way, upset the boat. The ferrymen were both drowned, the horse and his owner were carried together under a ship's bottom and drowned, as was also a child. The rest were saved by the assistance of ropes and boats.

November 5.—A wind-mill on the *Castle Leazes*, near *Gallowgate*, *Newcastle*, was burnt down, supposed by incendiaries. The corporation offered twenty guineas reward for the apprehension of the offender or offenders.

November 19.—Being the anniversary of *Lord Ossulton's* birth day, the right hon. the earl of *Tankerville*, gave an elegant entertainment at *Chillingham Castle*, in *Northumberland*, to his lordship's tenants in that neighbourhood, at which were present upwards of 200 persons. His lordship also, on account of the

* This column, which is of the *Doric* order, rises 140 feet in height, surmounted by a colossal gilt figure of *Liberty*, 12 feet high. This, when the gilding was perfect, must have had an imposing effect under the rays of the sun, as it can be seen at a great distance.

inclemency of the season and great scarcity of provisions, was pleased to order a great number of the wild cattle in Chillingham park to be slaughtered, which, with a proportionable quantity of bread, were on that day distributed amongst upwards of 600 poor people in that part of the country.

1756 (*Dec. 31*).—Died, at Lesbury, in Northumberland, Mary Bennett, aged 110, who (except her sight which she lost about three years before), enjoyed all her faculties to the last.

This year, the *Relief Meeting-house*, near the eastern extremity of Shaw's Lane, Berwick, was built by subscription.

Newcastle race ground was this year put into good repair by the Corporation of that town.

1757 (*Jan 20*).—Died, in Cowgate, Newcastle, Isabella Darling, in the 111th year of her age, retaining her faculties to the last. She left a daughter in her 88th year.

April 15.—The following accident happened to Mr. Green, a shopkeeper at Corbridge. Mr. Green whilst putting his gun into order, inadvertently snapped it near a 10lb. box of gunpowder, and a spark falling into the box, it immediately blew up with a tremendous explosion, by which he was much scorched, and his cloaths set on fire. Four other persons were much injured. The door being open saved the house from being blown up.

April 19.—The south mail came into Newcastle guarded by a man before on horseback with a drawn sword, and behind by another with a charged blunderbuss, which precaution was at that time taken on all the principal roads to prevent its being robbed.

April 25.—At a common council held in Newcastle, it was unanimously ordered, that the right hon. William Pitt (afterwards earl of Chatham, and father of the premier of the same name), and the right hon. Henry Bilson Legge, should be presented with their freedom of that corporation, in gold boxes, for their loyal, disinterested, and virtuous endeavours to promote the service of their king and country.

June 10.—An explosion took place in a colliery at Ravensworth, by which sixteen persons lost their lives.

June 15.—Robert Clover was buried at Gateshead, where he was born on the 5th of December, 1738. He was a young man of uncommon parts and application, and had acquired such nice skill in music, as excited the admiration of Mr. Charles Avison, one of the first masters in the profession. He made great advances in drawing, and portrait, and landscape, and miniature painting, without the assistance of masters. He also made considerable progress in modern languages, in astronomy, and the mathematics. When only fifteen years of age, he wrote two poetic pieces, in imitation of Milton's *L'Allegro*, which Mr. Hilton, of Gateshead, published with his own poems. But such intense labour was too much for a delicate constitution, and he died when approaching to manhood, beloved and esteemed by all who knew him.

July 13.—Died, at Unthank, in the county of Durham, aged 83, Christopher Hunter, M. D. a very learned and judicious

antiquary and physician. Dr. H. was a native of Medomsley, and was sent at an early age to the Free Grammar School of Houghton-le-spring. In 1692 he was admitted pensioner of St. John's College, Cambridge, and in 1698 he took his degree of B. M. Soon after this he retired to his native county, and fixed himself in medical practice at Stockton. In a few years he removed to the city of Durham, where he revelled in abbey-ledgers, registers, and chartularies. He corresponded with Gordon, Lister, Horsley, and other antiquaries, and contributed many valuable materials to "*Bourne's History of Newcastle*." Dr. Hunter's publications were confined to a republication of "*Davis's Rites and Monuments of the Church of Durham, 1733*" and "*An Illustration of Mr. Daniel Neale's History of the Puritans in the Article of Peter Smart, A. M., from Original Papers, with Remarks, 1736*,"* but his MSS. collections were very numerous. Dr. Hunter's library was purchased by Richardson, bookseller in Durham, for about £360. and dispersed by sale. His collection of Roman antiquities and coins, and part of his MSS. were bought by the dean and chapter of Durham for £40., and are now in the cathedral library.

1757 (*Aug. 8*).—William Heugh was executed at Durham, pursuant to his sentence, for the murder of a bastard child.

September 28.—Died, at his seat at Belsay castle, in Northumberland, Sir William Middleton, bart. He was a gentleman of the most strict honour and steady attachment to the house of Hanover, which he manifested upon all occasions with ardour and alacrity; one remarkable instance of which was his attending his royal highness the duke of Cumberland in his expedition to Scotland, where he was present at the battle of Culloden. He was one of the oldest members of the house of commons, having sat in six parliaments a representative for the county of Northumberland, where his interest was so firmly established, that no force of party seemed able to shake it; and indeed his social heart and many amiable qualities had so endeared him to every body, that whether named as a companion or a toast, Sir William Middleton was always acceptable.

September.—A green shark, six feet long, was taken in the river Tweed, a little above the bridge at Berwick. The fishermen before they saw it, imagined they had got a great haul of salmon, the net being so difficult to draw. As soon as it came near the shore, it made the water fly to a prodigious height, and after they had disabled it a little, and got it into shoal water, it made a hole in the sand with its tail which would have held a coach. Some gentlemen who had seen the sharks of both the Indies said this was an East Indian one, and it was thought it had followed the East India fleet to the Forth, and taken off after the salmon up the river in passing by. A clasped knife was found in its belly.

October 24.—Died at her house without Pilgrim Street gate, Newcastle, Ann Dobson, aged 104 years. She enjoyed all her sensitive faculties till the last.

* Dr. Hunter's publications were printed at Durham by Isaac Ross.

1757 (*Nov. 22*).—A fire broke out in the mill-house of Mr. Rowell, baker and brewer, in Pilgrim Street, Newcastle, which consumed the same before it was got under. The right worshipful the mayor, the magistrates, and the principal officers in the town, were very active on the occasion, in giving proper directions and keeping good order until the fire was extinguished.

November 25.—Major-general Grant, in the service of the king of Prussia, and who was in the battle of Leipsic, landed at Shields from on board the *Grampus* sloop of war, and came to Newcastle, attended by Mr. Lamb, messenger from the hon. Mr. Mitchell, the British ambassador at Leipsic. On the general's alighting at the King's Head tavern, on the Quay, the right worshipful Matthew Bell, esq., mayor, sent one of the town's officers to compliment him on his arrival, with an invitation to the Mansion-house; this, however, he very politely declined, and declared he would properly represent the great civility paid to him, to both their Britannic and Prussian majesties, upon which the mayor personally waited upon him. As soon as the welcome news of this victory obtained by the king of Prussia over the French and imperial army, on the 5th, arrived in Newcastle, the bells were ordered to be rung, gladness appeared in every countenance, and the evening was concluded with drinking loyal healths, &c. On this occasion there were great rejoicings at all the towns and most of the villages in Northumberland and Durham.

November.—As some colliers were sinking a new pit on Gateshead Fell, they found the entire skeleton of a man of a gigantic size, in a bed of stiff clay, about seven feet from the surface. Near the skeleton were found three small pieces of very ancient coin. The person when living must have been near eight feet high, the bones lay compact, measuring seven feet eight inches, and must have lain there many centuries.

This year, at the building of the bridge over the Gaunless, at Bishop Auckland, a Roman urn of greyish clay was discovered, filled with earth and human bones.

The trustees of Lord Crewe's charity, at Bamborough, this year, began the repairs of the tower, under the direction of Dr. Sharp, when it was fitted up for the reception of the poor.

This year, died at Newcastle, Richard Wailes, aged 100 years.

1758 (*Jan. 11*).—Mr. George Pickering, a poet of no mean celebrity, was born at Simonburn, in Northumberland, and, according to the baptismal register of that place, was christened there on the above day. Having received the rudiments of his education under Mr. Joseph Atkinson, of Simonburn; he was sent to Haydonbridge, and there placed for education in the languages, under the tuition of the Rev. Joseph Harrison, master of the grammar school. About the age of 18, he became a clerk in the office of Mr. Davidson, attorney, of Newcastle; here he met with a kindred genius in the person of Thomas Bedingfeld, (of a Yorkshire family) and who was also in this highly respectable office. In the year 1784, Mr. Bedingfeld removed to Lincoln's Inn, where he continued the

study of the law, under that eminent conveyancer, Matthew Duane, esq. Towards the latter end of the year 1787, Mr. B. commenced practice on his own account in the Inner Temple, as a conveyancer and chamber counsel, and was rising rapidly to considerable eminence, when death terminated his career, in 1789. Some time after that period, Mr. Pickering was lost to his friends, they supposing he had gone abroad, and that he, too, had paid the great debt of nature; but a few years ago, he returned to his native village in great poverty and debility. He is since dead. The literary compositions of Pickering and Bedingfeld, being scattered in magazines and newspapers, were collected by the late Mr. Ellis, of Otterburn Hall, (who had also been in Mr. Davidson's office,) and published in Newcastle, in 8vo. in 1815.

1758 (*Feb. 20*).—This day, was shot on the town-moor, Newcastle, for desertion, William Bland, a soldier in General Bockland's second battalion, then quartered in that town. He behaved with a becoming penitence. He had been impressed into the service.

February 27.—There was a numerous meeting of gentlemen at the Guildhall, in Newcastle, in order to form an independent company of volunteers for that town, when several regulations were agreed on, and an association signed, their uniform fixed, and March 6th was appointed for their first attendance at the Merchants' court, to learn the Prussian exercise. This was the exercise practised by the troops under Frederick III. of Prussia, and by which he had been so victorious over the French, &c.

February 27.—The castle and manor of Hilton, in the county of Durham, were contracted for by ——— Wogan, esq., jun. who had returned from the East Indies, for £30,550., but the sale was never perfected, and they were, after the death of George Bowes, esq., of Streatlam and Gibside, sold to Mrs. Bowes, his widow, whose descendant, the earl of Strathmore, is the present proprietor. The Hiltons were in possession of this manor as early as the time of King Athelstan. *See the Year 924*. The last baron, John Hilton, esq., who died September 25th, 1746, was the last male representative of this ancient and honourable family. Amongst other baronial appendages, Mr. Hilton was one of the latest gentlemen in England, who kept a domestic fool. The baron on one occasion, on his return from London, quitted his carriage at the Ferry, and amused himself with a homeward saunter through his own woods and meadows; at Hilton foot-bridge, he encountered his faithful fool, who staring on the gaudy laced suit of his patron, made by some southern tailor, exclaimed, "*Wha's fule now?*" Mr. Hilton's portrait is still preserved at Hilton, let into a pannel above the fire place, in the great dining room.

March 20.—A pitman working in a coal pit at Midford, near Morpeth, was by a sudden shutting in of the earth, inclosed in it, and, notwithstanding the efforts of some hundreds of people, could not be got out until he had lain six days in that dismal situation. The poor fellow was alive, but had lost the use of his legs and thighs.

1758 (*March*).—There were discovered on removing a ridge of limestone, and rubbish, on Fulwell-hills, near Sunderland, a gigantic human skeleton, two Roman coins, and an urn of unbaked clay. The skeleton measured nine feet six inches in length. The shin-bone measuring two feet three inches from the knee to the ankle: the head lay to the west, and was defended from the superincumbent earth by four large stones. The coins were found on the south side of the skeleton, near the right. Another singular discovery was made here several years ago. In working these quarries a kind of square pit was opened, within which were deposited, a quantity of stags' horns, cut into lengths of three or four inches, and resting amongst a deep-coloured substance, most resembling animal matter.

March.—Mr. Smelt, one of the engineers belonging to the board of ordnance, arrived at North Shields, to erect additional batteries at Tynemouth Castle and the Spanish works, as also to build barracks for 1,000 men, to be a more effectual security to the harbour. Advertisements were posted in Newcastle and Shields, giving notice, that all persons desirous of contracting for wood, stone, lime, &c., towards erecting the intended barracks and redoubts at Tynemouth, would give in their proposals immediately.

April 11.—Susannah Fleming, stood in the pillory at the White Cross, Newcastle, an hour, pursuant to her sentence, for the first time, (being to stand once in a quarter, for a year,) for fortune-telling; who, though not molested by the populace, was nearly strangled before the time was expired, occasioned either by fainting and shrinking down, or by tying too much about her neck, and being thereby straightened in the hole. A sailor, out of charity, brought her down the ladder upon his back, in nearly a dying state.

April 26.—Being the anniversary of the duke of Cumberland's birth-day, was observed in Newcastle with great rejoicings; and in the afternoon, the gentlemen associates, dressed in their uniforms, met at the vicarage-ground in Westgate Street, and marched under arms to the Forth, where they went through the Prussian exercise with great exactness, and made three veteran fires. Their appearance and performance filled every mouth with praise.

May 22.—The following curious notice circulated at the time, shews the then *sports at Swalwell Hopping*.—"On this day, the annual diversions at Swalwell, near Newcastle, will take place, which will consist of dancing for ribbons, grinning for tobacco, women running for smocks, ass races, foot courses by men, with an odd whim of a man eating a cock alive, feathers, entrails," &c.!!! Could this last performance be considered an *improvement* upon that barbarous and cruel practice cock-fighting?

July 20.—Upwards of 2,000 salmon were taken in the river Tyne, and, being brought to Newcastle market, were sold at one penny and three-halfpence per pound.

July 26.—Died, Mr. John Stodart, many years a writing-master, in Newcastle, and the first person who taught the art to great

perfection, in this county, and whose very extraordinary execution stimulated others to imitate him, and thereby continue that useful art in its present state.

1758 (*Aug. 7*).—Alice Williamson, an old offender, was executed on the town-moor, Newcastle, for a burglary. She acknowledged the justice of her sentence and died penitent.

August 15.—Races, to be continued annually, were commenced at Prestwick, near Newcastle. Eight men started and ran through the car four heats, to the great surprise and diversion of a large company assembled to witness this amphibious entertainment. There were several foot races upon the land, and the whole concluded with a ball.

September 1.—The gentlemen archers met at the house of Mr. Dixon, in Darlington, and after an elegant entertainment, went in procession to the field with colours flying and music playing, to shoot for the silver medal and gorget, when the former was won by Mr. Robert Hall, of Darlington, as captain, and the latter by the Rev. Mr. Chaytor, as lieutenant. A great concourse of people attended.

September 15.—Two sergeants and a corporal making up a number of cartridges in the town-hall, at Morpeth, by accident some of the powder ignited, and above a thousand of them exploded. The three men were terribly burnt; the life of one was despaired of. The windows of the building were much shattered, and the consequence would have been still more dreadful, had not one of the sergeants prevented the fire by catching the whole of the remainder; above three thousand cartridges, and two sacks of gun-powder, being upon the table when the rest took fire.

September 20.—The pot house at the Skinners'-burn, Newcastle, was burnt down, and but for the timely assistance of the glass-makers, most of the adjacent buildings would have been consumed.

September 21.—A sheep broke from a butcher that had a drove in the Close, Newcastle, and being chased by his dog down a lane, where two dyers named Clowney and Porteus, were washing cloth in the Tyne, it leaped off the Quay, and threw them from their stands into the river, and the tide going very strong, they were both drowned.

September 30.—At Snitter, near Rothbury, a boar seized a man, named David Hall, and before any assistance came to him, the boar tore out his entrails at both his sides, and he expired the next day.

October 15.—A very large tree, intended for Mr. Blckett's colliery, at Heworth, was drawn through Newcastle by 17 horses; it measured 161 feet, and was brought from Walton Park, in Cumberland.

November.—As William Fenwick, esq. of Bywell, was fox-hunting, a fox was started which the hounds pursued upwards of twenty miles, when being hard pinched, and the hounds in full view, reynard took into a drift that led into an old coal pit; four couple of the dogs pursued him close up the drift, when they all fell down the pit and were drowned.

1759 (*Jan. 7*).—A fire broke out in Gloster-hill house, near Warkworth, in Northumberland, which consumed it in a few hours. One of the maid-servants in saving her clothes, which she did by throwing them out of the windows, was burnt to death in returning down the stairs.

March 31.—An unfortunate affair happened at Swalwell, near Newcastle; part of a press gang endeavouring to carry off one William Moffat, but he making resistance, and a person named Bell interfering, he was run through the body and died soon after; a midshipman was also much injured. *April 7*.—Mrs. Bell, widow of the deceased, offered by advertisement, a reward of £20. for the apprehension of William Moffat, of Swalwell, barber, who murdered her late husband, William Bell, by giving him five stabs with a sword in different parts of his body. *May 7th*.—Moffat was committed to Durham gaol, having been apprehended at Whitehaven, by Mr. Osburn,* who received the above reward. At the assizes in August, 1759, Moffat was acquitted.

April.—Died, that ingenious mathematician, Mr. William Pryor, assay-master of the plate-office, in Newcastle, and for the counties of Northumberland and Durham, eminent for making musical instruments and toys. His son, Matthew Pryor, succeeded him as assay-master.

May 14.—During a heavy shower of rain, the impressed men on board of the tender, lying at Sunderland, got upon deck and knocking down the guards, &c., about 30 made their escape. The bravery of the leader in effecting their plan was very conspicuous; he, coming first up, wrested the halbert from the centinel, and with it in one hand defended himself from the rest, while with the other hand he seized on a ladder, and let it down into the hold, for his companions to come to his assistance.

June 17.—On the arrival of the agreeable and welcome news at Newcastle, of the reduction of Guadaloupe, on the 21st of the preceding April, the bells were immediately rung, and the day was concluded with every demonstration of joy. The news was particularly pleasing at Newcastle, as the brave Colonel Clavering, who brought home the dispatches, was of that neighbourhood, and whose relations were complimented on this account, had distinguished himself so gallantly on the occasion.

June 25.—About nine o'clock in the morning, Jeremiah Bell, of the grenadier company, in Colonel La Fausille's 66th regiment of foot, quartered in Sunderland, was shot for repeated desertion. He appeared to be very much disturbed, till he prevailed with his mother to confess in private (to the clergyman who attended him) something which seemed to lie heavy on his conscience, after which he suffered composedly. Bell was only 22 years of age, and born at Bassenthwaite, in Cumberland.

July 13.—The corporation of Durham unanimously voted the

* Osburn, *alias* Captain Death, well known in Newcastle, for his performance in singing the celebrated and memorable ditty relating to the captain of the Terrible, privateer, whose name was Death.

freedom of that city to the right hon. Richard, earl of Scarborough, the hon. and right rev. the lord bishop of Durham, and the hon. James Lumley, on account of their signal services in promoting the navigation of the river Wear, and their especial regard for the interests of that city.

1759 (*July*).—At this time there was living at Guizance, near Warkworth, a woman, named Mary Bullock, in the 104th year of her age, and what was very remarkable, she had not long before got a new set of teeth. She enjoyed a strong memory, was in great vigour, and had several children, the eldest of whom was upwards of 80 years of age.

July 27.—The right hon. Lord Warkworth, and his brother, sons of the earl of Northumberland, arrived at Alnwick castle, where the earl and countess were then residing. This being the first time that these illustrious young persons had paid a visit to Northumberland, they were received with great joy by the inhabitants of Alnwick. In the evening there were ringing of bells, discharges of small cannon, and a grand display of fire-works in the street before the castle, consisting of skyrockets, wheels, crowns, mines, &c., of the most brilliant description.

August 11.—About three o'clock in the morning, arrived in Newcastle, the agreeable news of the victory gained on the first, by Prince Ferdinand, over the French, near Minden, at which early hour, the bells were rung, some houses were illuminated, and bonfires made in the streets; before eight o'clock, the joy was universal throughout the town.

August 13.—Died at Stockton, Mr. Martin Bryson, who for many years kept a bookseller's shop on Tyne Bridge, Newcastle. The late Mr. William Charnley, served his apprenticeship with Mr. Bryson, "whose integrity, benevolence, and amiable disposition, rendered him a credit to trade, a blessing to society, and dear to all his friends." Mr. Bryson was in habits of intimacy and correspondence with Mr. Allan Ramsay, the celebrated Scots poet, one of whose letters to Mr. Bryson, it is said, was addressed as follows:—

"To Mr. Bryson, on Tyne Brigg,
An upright, downright, honest Whig."

August 27.—The fishermen of Newbiggen, by the sea, drove on shore there a very singular fish, 21 feet long, and its circumference round the shoulders nine feet.

September 9.—The news of Admiral Boscawen's having defeated the French fleet, on the 18th of August, near Gibraltar, arrived in Newcastle by express, on which occasion the bells were rung, and every possible demonstration of joy was exhibited by the inhabitants.

September 11.—The account of the surrender of Niagara and Ticonderago, in America, on the 24th of July, to the British arms, under the command of Major-general Amherst, arriving in Newcastle, the bells were rung till a late hour at night, several houses were illuminated, and a general joy was diffused through the whole town.

1759 (*Sept. 20*).—As Mr. Cuthbert Lambert,* son of an eminent physician in Pilgrim Street, Newcastle, was riding along Sandyford-stone Lane, his mare took fright, and, running to the bridge, made a spring over the battlement, which was three feet and a half high, to the opposite side of the burn below, which was 45 feet, and was 36 feet perpendicular; what was very astonishing, and, indeed, remarkably providential, the young gentleman escaped with his life. An intervening branch of an old ash tree broke their fall. In consequence of Mr. Lambert having kept his seat to the bottom, he received so violent a shock, that he was some time indisposed. The mare stretched itself out and died almost immediately; being a great favourite, its skin was preserved in the family. On examining the body, all the joints of the back were found displaced by the fall. The place has ever since been called "LAMBERT'S LEAP," which was cut upon the coping stone of the battlement to commemorate the fact. A large print, drawn and published in London, by Mr. Pollard, in 1786, and which was afterwards copied and engraved by Mr. John Scott, for the "Sporting Anecdotes," is neither a view of the place, nor does it state the fact, the above account being strictly correct. The following is the account given underneath Mr. Pollard's print:—"The accident above represented, happened some time ago to Mr. Cuthbert Lambert, of Newcastle upon Tyne, whose horse, as he was endeavouring to turn him at full speed across Sandyford-stone Bridge, leaped the battlement, and fell about 45 feet, to the bed of the river. The horse died in consequence of the fall, *but the young gentleman was providentially caught in the branches of an old ash tree, where he hung by the hands till some passengers got him down in safety*"!!! I find that Mr. Pollard had been misinformed, by a friend in Newcastle, on whom he depended for the particulars of the fact. *See the vignette title, and for other accidents at this bridge, see Aug. 18th, 1771, and Dec. 5th, 1827.*

September 21.—Died, deservedly lamented, Lady Blackett, consort of Sir Walter Blackett, bart., M. P., for Newcastle. The loss of this most benevolent lady, was severely felt by the necessitous poor, and deeply regretted by her acquaintances of every rank and station. On the 27th her remains were deposited in the family vault, in St. Nicholas' Church, in Newcastle, the pall being borne by the earl of Northumberland, Lord Ravensworth, Sir John Swinburne, Sir Thomas Clavering, Sir Henry Grey, and Sir Matthew White, barts., George Bowes, George Delaval, William Fenwick, William Carr, of Etal, Lancelot Allgood, and William Ord, esqrs.

October 5.—All the officers of the Northumberland militia dined at Alnwick castle, with the earl and countess of Northumberland. The company assembled at the post-office, from whence

* Oct. 13, 1770, Died, Mr. Cuthbert Lambert, son of Dr. Lambert, of Newcastle, and Land-waiter at the Custom-house there.

they marched through the streets in their uniforms to the gates of the castle, where they were met and saluted by the earl and lord Warkworth, and thence conducted into the castle, being complimented on their arrival by a discharge of cannon. The dinner was most magnificent, and the toasts, which were of the most loyal description, were accompanied by discharges of cannon. A few days after, the cloathing for the men arrived. The livery was red, faced with buff, as at present.

1759 (*Oct. 21*).—The important and glorious news of the surrender of Quebec, in America, to the British arms, on the 18th of the preceding month, arrived in Newcastle, on which occasion the bells were immediately rung, but the general rejoicing was postponed until the next day (*Monday*), being the anniversary of his majesty's coronation. The gentlemen volunteers fired several excellent vollies in the morning, and at noon the two battalions of Yorkshire militia went through the same ceremony, the bells were rung throughout the day, and at night the houses were most brilliantly illuminated. At all the other towns there were great rejoicings on account of the success of the British arms. These rejoicings were not unmixed with sorrow for the loss of the brave General Wolfe, who was killed whilst gallantly heading his grenadiers on the heights of Abraham, westward of Quebec, five days previous to the surrender of that place. He was first wounded in the wrist, then in the belly, but still pushing on he was mortally wounded in the breast. In his dying moments he desired to know how the day went, and being told that the French were running, he replied, "God be praised—I die in peace." This gallant general was only about 34 years of age. The French General Montcalm, and the two French officers, next in command, were mortally wounded.*

October 31.—About six o'clock in the evening, a fire broke out in one of the stables belonging to the Bird in Bush Inn, in Pilgrim Street, Newcastle, which burnt with great fury until about eleven o'clock, when it was happily extinguished. The mayor, magistrates, and the military, were indefatigable in their exertions to render every assistance to the inhabitants of the town, who were assembled on the occasion.

October.—A fire broke out in the stack garth at Grindon, near Berwick, which, in a short time, consumed 30 stacks of corn and hay, together with all the barns, granaries, and other out-houses. The loss was computed at £3,000.

December 1.—A fire broke out in a stack yard at Ulgham Grange, near Morpeth, belonging to Mr. Ralph Fenwick, which was entirely consumed. It consisted of 19 stacks of corn, and near 250

* Died, at the village of Ford, in Northumberland, August the 7th, 1807, aged 85 years, Mr. Robert Sanderson, who served as an ordinary surgeon to General Wolfe, at the memorable attack on Quebec, and is the person represented in the engraving of the death of that hero, as supporting the British general after he had received his fatal wound. He often boasted that he was the person who shot General Montcalm, the French commander of that place.

[^] read, orderly sergeant.

tons of hay. It was thought to have been the work of incendiaries.

1759.—This year, on removing some rubbish within Thirlwall castle, the flooring of a room was discovered, consisting of three tier or courses of flags, one above another, each separated by a stratum of sand.

An act of parliament was this year passed for rendering the river Wear navigable up to Durham, but the commissioners never qualified to put the act in force. A plan to render the river navigable to Durham had been proposed in 1720, and in 1796, Mr. Robert Dodd, and afterwards Mr. Whitworth, surveyed the river, with a view of joining the Tyne and Wear, by a cut through the vale of Team, to the Wear, near Picktree, and thence to the city of Durham.

This year, a very fine organ was erected in Stockton church.

1760 (*Jan. 6*).—A fire broke out in a malting, at the head of Hornsby's Chare, adjoining the Butchers' Bank, Newcastle, and burnt with great violence for near five hours; it consumed the malting and two dwelling houses; it was occasioned by a person going with an uncovered candle among some of the flax saved from the ship Neptune, of that place, which was wrecked in Burlington Bay, on the 12th of December, 1759.

January 13.—In the evening, a small ferry-boat, with twelve persons in it, put off from the shore at North Shields, in order to cross the river, but, being overloaded, unfortunately sunk, and only two persons were saved.

January 24.—About eight o'clock in the evening, a dreadful fire broke out in the glass-house, at the west end of the Close, Newcastle, belonging to Messrs. Williams, and Co., but, with timely assistance, it was got under.

January.—Died, at Whitburn, near Sunderland, Mrs. Mary Bainbridge, aged 101 years. She had enjoyed perfect health for a number of years, was out on a visit the day before, and taken ill in the night, she slumbered away in a few hours.

January 31.—A tender sailed from Shields with 60 impressed men on board, who, as soon as the vessel had got out to sea, found means to release themselves, and taking possession of the vessel carried her into Scarborough and made their escape.

The beginning of this year, at a sale of furniture, at Winlaton, near Newcastle, a woman bought a very large old bureau for 4*s.* 6*d.*, being considered nothing better than lumber. After the sale, she, with some difficulty, prevailed on a nailor, her neighbour, to assist her in removing it; he, in forcing it open by the middle, discovered some papers and loose gold; told her of it, and made it fast again; got more help, and took it away whole. In getting it out, one of the papers fell, and the gold gingling, was taken notice of by one of the assistants, but the nailor saying it was only a bag with a few nails he had put out of his pocket, it passed. After getting it home, and dismissing the assistants, the purchaser and her friend, the nailor, went to work, and took it to pieces, and were paid for

their trouble with several purses and papers of gold to a considerable amount. She gave the nailor five papers untold, which enabled him to pay his debts, and purchase a house and shop to work in, which amounted to upwards of £200., and was told by the woman to apply to her if he wanted more; but he was satisfied and looked upon it as a particular piece of providence, being deep in debt and out of credit, with a sick wife and a small family. It was remarkable that this old piece of furniture was recollected to have passed through several sales for the preceding forty years; that none of the gold was of a later coinage than James II., and that it was in the possession of an opulent family, in the neighbourhood of Newcastle in the year 1715.

1760 (*Feb. 25*).—The officers of the Northumberland militia met at Alnwick, and the men having marched in from different parts of the county, as well as from Newcastle, they were embodied and formed into companies, and received their cloathing and accoutrements at Alnwick castle, the seat of the right hon. the earl of Northumberland, brigadier-general, by whose order twenty guineas were distributed amongst them to drink his majesty's health. On the 28th, in the evening, the earl of Northumberland, accompanied by his son, Lord Warkworth, arrived in Newcastle; the former being lord-lieutenant of Northumberland, was on his way to Berwick to join the militia which had left Alnwick to be quartered there; and the latter to join the regiment of royal volunteers, commanded by Colonel Crawford, then quartered in Newcastle, in which his lordship bore a captain's commission. March 10th, this regiment consisting of 1,400 men, was reviewed by General Whitmore, in a field near Shields road, about three miles from Newcastle, and although a very young regiment, gave great satisfaction to the general, their own officers, and a great number of spectators present. April 25th, whilst this regiment was firing upon the town-moor, Newcastle, one of the soldiers had put into his musket a ball, with the intent as was supposed to shoot the major of the regiment, it luckily missed him, but wounded his horse in the neck, of which wound it died.

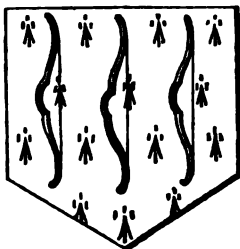
March 15.—A stone coffin was dug up by some workmen in the Spital Orchard, in Newcastle, in which the bones of a human skeleton, though much decayed, were found. From the narrowness of the coffin, the body deposited in it must have been a very small one, though of a middling length.

May 29.—A remarkable large salmon was taken in the river Tyne, and sold in Newcastle market for 11s. It weighed 54 pounds, was four feet four inches long, and thirty three inches round.

June 15.—One man was killed and another much scorched by a blast of foul air in Long Benton colliery.

August 27.—Arrived in Newcastle, brigadier-general the right hon. the marquis of Rockingham, from Sunderland, where his lordship (attended by several gentlemen of distinction, in the county of York), had reviewed Colonel Thornton's battalion of the West Riding of Yorkshire militia, with whose good character and

military appearance, his lordship was much pleased. On the day of his lordship's arrival in Newcastle, Colonel Duncombe's battalion of the North Riding of Yorkshire militia, was reviewed by General Whitmore, when his lordship expressed his approbation of the military appearance of the men and the steady and soldier-like manner in which they went through the different evolutions. After the review his lordship and the officers dined with General Whitmore, when they were most politely entertained. The next day the general reviewed the battalion commanded by Colonel Sir Ralph Milbank, bart., which gained universal applause for their military discipline. The officers and men were all new cloathed and made a fine appearance. The marquis was pleased to express, in a particular manner, the great pleasure he had received, and left ten guineas to each battalion to drink his majesty's health. His lordship was the same day entertained by Colonel Duncombe and his officers, and the following day Colonel Milbank and his officers gave an elegant entertainment to his lordship at the Assembly Rooms. August 30th, his lordship left Newcastle to be present at Richmond races.



1760 (*Sept. 17*).—Died, at his seat at Gibside, George Bowes, esq., of Streatlam and Gibside, M. P., for the county of Durham. Mr. Bowes had represented the county in the parliaments of 1727, 1734, 1741, 1747, and 1754. September 26th, his remains were deposited in the family vault at Whickham, in a grand manner, there to remain till the chapel at Gibside was finished (the first stone of which had been laid

a little before his death), then to be removed and placed in the vault which he designed for the future interment of his family. The pall was supported by the right hon. Lord Ravensworth, Sir Thomas Clavering, Sir Walter Blackett, Sir Henry Grey, barts., Edward Montague, Matthew Ridley, John Tempest, and Henry Lambton, esqrs. Mr. Bowes left an only daughter, Mary Eleanor, heiress to an estate of £600,000. She married John Lyon, the 9th earl of Strathmore, and afterwards she became the unfortunate wife of Andrew Robinson Stoney, who assumed the name of Bowes, in consequence of his marriage. This notorious character, who was a compound of every thing base, was familiarly known by the name of Stoney Bowes. *See March 7th, 1770, and Jan. 16th, 1810.*

October 1.—The Lying-in-hospital in Newcastle was first opened in Rosemary Lane. A similar charity for poor lying-in-women at their own houses, in Newcastle and Gateshead, was established the following year. A neat stone building has recently been erected in Bridge Street, for the establishment originally in Rosemary Lane.

November 1.—At noon the right worshipful, Henry Partis, esq., mayor, and the magistrates in their scarlet robes, preceded by the town's band of music and the regalia, went from the Mansion-

house to the Guildhall, attended by the colonels and officers of the two battalions of Yorkshire militia, quartered in Newcastle, and the principal gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood, where many loyal healths were drunk, and proclaimed his majesty, King George III., amidst the joyful acclamations of several thousands of spectators, who accompanied them to the Flesh-market, and the White Cross, in Newgate Street, the usual places of proclamation.

1760.—On the same day, his majesty was proclaimed at Berwick, amidst the joyful acclamations of a great concourse of people. Sir Edward Blackett, bart., colonel of the Northumberland militia, the magistrates and gentlemen of the town waited on the right worshipful William Hall, esq., mayor, at his house, and marched to the Cross, preceded by Captain Dixon, with the company of grenadiers, where he joined the rest of the regiment. The proclamation having been read at the various places, the cannon on the walls were fired, and the gentlemen repaired again to the Cross, where they drank his majesty's health, and the healths of all the royal family. After each health the Northumberland militia fired a volley, with three huzzas from the assembled multitude. The grenadier company then marched back in the same order to the mayor's house, where an elegant entertainment was given by the corporation to the officers, and a handsome present to the soldiers, and several hog-heads of strong beer to the populace. At night the town was illuminated. The like was done with great splendour at all the neighbouring towns. His majesty was proclaimed at London on the 26th of October, the day after the death of his grandfather, King George II.

A curious effigy, in relief, of a Roman soldier, on a white rag-stone, a ring engraven with the figure of Victory on a rough cornelian, and a small brass image of one of the lares, were found at the Roman military station of *Caerborran*, in Northumberland. The figure of the former was about 14 inches in height. Above its shoulder was a lion recumbent with a deer struggling under its paws. Abundance of antiquities have been dug up in this station. A human skeleton was found at the east end when the military road to Cumberland was being made.

This year, as a mason, named Robinson, was angling in the river Tyne, at Bywell, after a flood, he took up a small silver cup, as it was rolling on the waves, full of earth, of Roman fabric, with this inscription round the brim, "*Desideri vivas.*" He sold it to Mr. Langlands, goldsmith in Newcastle, for 15s., of whom it was soon after claimed by William Fenwick, esq., as lord of the manor.

This year, a large gateway tower which stood at the end of Framwellgate Bridge, in the city of Durham, was taken down for the convenience of carriages.

A part of the crowded buildings which stood on the north pillars of Elvet Bridge, in the city of Durham, were this year removed.

1761 (*Jan.*).—As some workmen were digging in a plantation at Shawdon, in Northumberland, they found two Roman urns containing human bones. They were of a globular form, about 16

inches in diameter, and were made of a bluish earth. Near the urns was also found a stone chest or coffin, and on digging further, an entire foundation of a triangular building, with three rows of steps, and also a Roman causeway.

1761 (*Feb. 17*).—Early in the morning a fire was discovered in a corver's shop, adjoining Byker staith, belonging to Matthew Ridley, esq., which entirely consumed the same, together with the smith's and waggon-way wright's shops adjoining, and had not the wind luckily shifted, in all probability the staith would also have been destroyed, as the flames had at one time hold of it.

February 26.—Mr. William Scott, (the present Lord Stowell), son of William Scott, esq., of Newcastle, and who was educated in the Royal Free Grammar School there, by the late Rev. Hugh Moises, was preferred to his opponents, and unanimously chosen scholar of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, for his great proficiency in classical learning, though he was then only fifteen years of age. December 14th, 1764, Mr. Scott was elected fellow of University College, Oxford, and on the 10th of June, 1766, he took his degree of M. A. in the same university. In December, 1773, Mr. Scott was elected, in full convocation, Camden Professor of History in that university. This professorship was founded by the learned Mr. Camden, in 1662, and for the maintenance of the professor, he charged his manor of Bexley, in Kent, with £140. per annum. See *April 20th*, 1816, and *August 14th*, 1819.

At the same time, one of the medals given by his grace the duke of Newcastle, to the two best classical scholars of the year, in the University of Cambridge, was adjudged to Mr. Robert Maddison, who had also been educated in the Royal Free Grammar School, in Newcastle, by the Rev. Mr. Moises.

February 28.—The latter end of this month, a great deal of disturbance about the balloting for the militia took place in Northumberland and Durham. On the above day (Saturday), the mob having got a paper printed,* came to Gateshead, in number about a thousand, and delivered it among the deputy-lieutenants, who were met to ballot for a few vacancies. The gentlemen, to avoid mischief, agreed to excuse them for that time at their expence (save a trifle from those on whom the lots fell), as only about a dozen were wanted in the ward. They then went peaceably home, but swore that they would stand to their proposal as in their printed paper, whenever a general balloting happened again, and, at the

“*Durham, Feb. 27, 1761.*”

* “This is to give notice to all in general, that it is far from the hearts of any of us that is here met to day, to be any ways inclined to be Rebellious against his Royal Majesty; but, far from it, only what common men desire, is men of estates to hire men for the militia as they were formerly; being very fit that they who have lands should hire men to maintain them; for it is a thing that none of us will submit to, to be ballotted after this manner, as it is in vain to enlist or draw any belonging to this our county: for we are resolved not to let any man go out amongst us after this manner.” “God save his Majesty King George the Third.”

same time, begged his majesty might be petitioned to alter the act. After the affair at Gateshead, the pitmen, waggonmen, husbandmen, and servants, in the county of Northumberland, (for of such the mobs mostly consisted,) having taken into their heads, that the Durham people of their stations had got exempt from the ballot by the rise they had made, assembled on Monday the 2d of March, in great numbers at Morpeth, and not meeting with such indulgence as they expected, obliged the deputy-lieutenants and justices to quit their duty for their own safety, no military force being at hand; the rioters then seized all the lists and books relative to the militia, from the constables, and tore or burnt them before their eyes. The next day, they went to Whittingham, twenty miles up the country, and acted in much the same manner. Flushed with success and reinforced to near five thousand, they made a similar attempt at Hexham, but had not the like success. March the 9th, the deputy-lieutenants met at Hexham, pursuant to advertisement, to receive lists from the constables, of the persons in Tindale ward liable to serve in the militia, and that being previously informed from several parts of the county, that a great number of persons were determined to assemble in a riotous manner to prevent such lists being delivered in, a detachment from the two battalions of Yorkshire militia, quartered at Newcastle, was, at the request of the deputy lieutenants and justices, ordered by Colonel Duncombe, under the command of Major Crowe, from thence to Hexham. Perhaps the most accurate and authentic account of the melancholy proceedings in this affair, is that written by an officer of the North York militia, (William Allen,) taken from his diary in the possession of Sir C. Sharp, and of which I have availed myself:—"Newcastle, March 7.—Received orders for two companies of each battalion to march early to morrow-morning, for Hexham, in order to put a stop to riotous assemblies, intended to be held there on Monday, to obstruct the deputy-lieutenants balotting for the militia. Sunday 8th.—Arrived safe at Hexham, at ten—found the people all resolute and determined to rise, from a notion that those who assembled at Newcastle, had their grievances redressed. Sir Rt. Bewick, Sir Lancelot Allgood, Fenwick, &c. &c. supped with us. Monday 9th.—At nine were under arms—at ten marched to the town-hall with the justices—took possession of all the avenues leading to the hall, and drew up our men in the market place—Captain Fielding and his company were posted in the yard. The gentlemen proceeded to business, and all the men, who gave in their names and had petitions to present, I conducted through the ranks two at a time, and carried up to the gentlemen. The petitions they presented were of a treasonable nature, tending to obstruct the execution of the laws; and though they professed all duty and allegiance to the king, yet they declared one and all that they would not be balloted for. The gentlemen told them that they would not dispense with the execution of the law, and though, however hard it might be, yet, as justices, they were obliged to act under it as it then stood. Their numbers greatly increased; and

about twelve, two horns were blown, and every reinforcement they received was ushered in with loud huzzas. One of the men who blew the horns (at my instance) was apprehended, but the gentlemen thought proper to release him, after taking his name and place of abode. At one, they had increased to near five thousand, and greatly insulted our men, who for upwards of three hours bore it with the greatest coolness and moderation. At one or a little after, the proclamation was read, and they were acquainted with the penalty they incurred if they did not disperse. They still continued waving their monstrous sticks, clubs, and quarter-staffs, in a most insolent manner over the heads of our men, for by this time they had come within reach of our bayonets, with which our front rank stood charged; and soon after, they made a vigorous effort upon our left and broke in upon them; one of the ring-leaders seized the firelock of a man of Captain Blomberg's company, turned upon the man and shot him dead upon the spot; at the same time, Ensign Hart was shot by a pistol from one of the mob, upon which the word of command was given to fire, as it then became an act of necessity and self-defence. The men were immediately formed again, and the fire became general from right to left. The grenadiers fired but once, which cleared our front, and in a minute's time there was scarce a man left but the dead and wounded. As soon as ever the smoke of the first fire cleared away, and I saw the resistance had ceased, I ran up and down the line to make the men give over firing—for many random shots still continued, and the balls whistled by me both on right and left, but providentially I received not the least harm. Thanks be to heaven, my endeavours met with immediate success, and I found Major Crowe and Captain Hill employed upon the same business; and now we had an opportunity of contemplating the bloody scene before us, twenty four being left upon the spot, eighteen of whom were dead, and the rest dangerously wounded. This was a spectacle that hurt humanity, for now all resistance was over, compassion took place. We seized upon all their clubs, but took no prisoners, because the gentlemen chose to have them apprehended in a regular way by afterwards issuing their peace-warrants. Col. Duncombe's detachment had one officer mortally wounded, one private killed upon the spot, and three wounded. The man who shot Mr. Hart was instantly despatched, as was the other man who killed the soldier. We had not so much as a single officer or soldier hurt; owing, I apprehend, to the care Captain Revely and I took in keeping our front clear, for whenever they attempted to press upon us we made our men charge their bayonets, and Revely and I advanced with ours at the same time, and made them give way. Finding no impression was to be made there, they altered their plan, and made their attack as before mentioned, which was foolish and desperate to the last degree. Our men behaved with the greatest steadiness that troops could possibly do, and the officers with a resolution that shewed they were not backward in obeying their orders. At four, marched our men to the abbey, and lodged them

altogether in the great old hall. At eight went to see poor Hart; found him resigned and quite sensible, and spoke very cheerfully, but said he could not continue long. Tuesday 10th, Ensign Hart died, this morning at five. No disturbance at all; a very wet day which was of service, as it washed the remains of yesterday out of the market place. At six all the officers and gentlemen attended the funeral of Ensign Hart—the officers supported the pall—the men marched with reversed arms and the drums beat the dead march, and every honour was paid him, except the firing, which was omitted, lest it should give umbrage to those who had lost friends in the affair, as many people were now come to town to challenge the dead and wounded. Buried the soldier at the same time. Fourteen of the rioters buried to night and others carried home, and some remained unowned. All quiet." August 17th, at the assizes held in Newcastle, by adjournment, for the county of Northumberland, and which ended on the following day, Peter Patterson and William Elder (two of the Hexham rioters) were attainted of high treason, and received the following sentence;— "To be drawn upon a hurdle to the place of execution, on Wednesday, the 30th day of September next, and then and there severally hanged by the neck, to be severally cut down alive, and have their entrails taken out and burnt before their faces, to have their heads severed from their bodies, and their bodies afterwards severally divided into four quarters, and their heads and quarters disposed at his majesty's pleasure." August 26th, the high-sheriff of Northumberland received a respite for Patterson and Elder, to the 5th of October, when Peter Patterson was executed at Morpeth. He behaved with a becoming decency. A disagreeable circumstance attended the execution of Patterson; the noose of the rope gave way, and he fell down before he was dead, the cart was then ordered back, and a new halter made use of, and after he had hung the time that the law required, his body was cut down and dismembered, according to his sentence. It is said that after he fell down he exclaimed "*Innocent blood was ill to shed!*" A further respite had previously arrived for William Elder, and at the assizes in August, 1762, he was pardoned.

1761 (*May*).—A subscription was opened for the levelling and inclosing the burial-ground of St. Nicholas' church-yard, in Newcastle, in order to render it a more agreeable approach to the church, as well as a decent place of interment of the dead. On this occasion the cemetery was considerably abridged. The year following St. John's church, and All Saints' church, were also inclosed.

July 11.—About ten o'clock at night, came on at Newcastle, the loudest peals of thunder that had been known for many years, and continued most part of the night; the lightning was most dreadful; the flashes followed each other so fast, that the firmament seemed one continued blaze. Mr. Ord, of Sands, near Sedgfield, was killed by the lightning on his return from Durham. Several sheep and cattle, in different parts of Northumberland, were killed. The rivers and brooks, were, by a heavy rain, swelled to an un-

common height, and great damage was done to the houses and lands adjoining. At Rothbury, the following day, there was a violent storm of rain, hail, wind, thunder, and lightning, several sheep were killed on the hills, and the rivulets, which trickled down the sides of the mountains, were in a few minutes swelled to mighty rivers, which rushed down in such rapid torrents, that the earth was ploughed up in their way, and large beds of gravel and huge stones rolled into the town of Rothbury, the streets of which were broken up and guttered to a great depth, and the sand and stones thrown into heaps against the houses, particularly in the lower part of the town, which was under water, as well as the ground lying behind, by which means a great deal of damage was done, particularly in a garden of Mr. Fletcher's, where at least one hundred tons of large stones and gravel were thrown, and under these several thousand quicks and firs entirely buried and destroyed. The storm did not last above an hour, but the havoc during that time was dreadful and astonishing.

1761 (*August 6*).—Two hundred and sixty salmon were taken in the Tyne, at Newburn, near Newcastle, at one draught.

August 21.—A fire broke out in a skinner's workshop, without Pilgrim Street gate, Newcastle, which in a short time consumed the same, though all possible assistance was given. The mayor and other magistrates attended, and the East York regiment of militia, commanded by Sir Digby Legard, were under arms.

September 1.—George Wilson, of Harbottle, in Northumberland, aged upwards of 100 years, was married at Alwinton, in the same county, to Lilly Forbes, being his fourth wife, aged 51. By the two first of his wives, he had 16 children. In 1688, he was impressed as a soldier. The curiosity of seeing the wedding of a man of his age, drew together a numerous and genteel company from great distances, who, in regard to his general good character, &c., made a handsome collection. He died, August 22d, 1763, in the 104th year of his age, and possessed great vigour till within ten days of his death. He had been a subject to eight kings and queens of England.

September 10.—When the news arrived in Newcastle of the Princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg (afterwards consort of King George III.) having landed safe at Harwich, every demonstration of joy was exhibited. On the following day, when the news of the marriage of King George III. and the Princess Charlotte arrived in Newcastle, the inhabitants again testified their joy by the ringing of bells, drinking loyal healths, &c.

September 22.—The coronation of their majesties, King George III. and Queen Charlotte, was observed in Newcastle with every possible token of loyalty and affection. The morning was ushered in by peals of bells and firing of guns, which was repeated every three hours through the day. At noon, Sir Digby Legard's battalion of militia fired three excellent volleys on the Sandhill, amidst the acclamations of the mayor and magistrates, and a vast number

of gentlemen, both of the town and country, where a fountain with wine, ornamented with a gilt crown, and the inscription "God save King George and Queen Charlotte," was opened, and several loyal healths were drunk. Soon after, the magistrates, officers, &c., went to dine at the mansion-house, and the fountain, which ran wine near two hours at both sides, was left for the populace to regale themselves at; the whole number of people assembled was computed at 10,000. The gentlemen volunteers, called independents, met at ten o'clock in their uniforms, at the artillery ground behind Jesus' hospital, in the Manor Chare, and fired three excellent vollies, as a mark of respect to the day. In the evening there was a most splendid illumination, not only the houses were lighted, but the churches, offices, exchange, and all public buildings, and being a fine night, the ballustrades of several gentlemen's houses, and the public pants, or water fountains, were bedecked with candles as thick as possible. Many curious and suitable inscriptions appeared; one gentleman, in particular, had a crown finely ornamented and set round with lighted candles, which turned upon an axis horizontally, and ran a continued round for several hours. The evening was concluded by a concert and ball, at the expense of the corporation, which was both full and brilliant. The master and brethren of the Trinity-house had an elegant entertainment in their hall, where their majesties' and other loyal healths were drunk, during which, royal salutes were fired on the Quay; between seven and eight o'clock in the evening, the ship, *Royal Oak*, was illuminated with 200 lamps, suspended in the rigging, &c. Sir Walter Blackett, bart., that the joy might be more generally diffused among all ranks of people, ordered £50. to be distributed to the poor inhabitants and the prisoners in the gaol. The militia had a handsome present made to them. In Gateshead, several curious fireworks were displayed; the houses and the church steeple were grandly illuminated. The whole was concluded with the utmost decorum, no mischief or accident having happened.

The same day, the Northumberland militia were drawn up on the Parade, at Berwick. At one o'clock began the discharge of artillery, succeeded by three excellent vollies. The officers gave a grand entertainment to the mayor and magistrates, with several other gentlemen, and in the evening a splendid ball to the ladies of the town and neighbourhood. All the other towns seemed to vie with each other in their loyalty and attachment.

It may be worthy of observation to state, that Dr. Thomas Secker, archbishop of Canterbury (formerly rector of Houghton-le-spring, and afterwards rector of Ryton, and prebend of Durham), when rector of St. James', was present at the birth of King George III., and baptized him the same day, and, as archbishop, attended the proclamation of him as king on the death of his royal grandfather, and afterwards married and crowned his majesty. This prelate also baptized his late majesty, King George IV.

1761 (*October.*)—A new clock, with chimes, was made by Mr.

Walker, in the Close, Newcastle, which was put up in St. Nicholas' Church, and greatly admired, and by good judges was esteemed an excellent piece of workmanship.

1761 (*Nov 23*).—A fire broke out in the house of Mr. John Henszell, at the Low Glasshouses, near Newcastle, which destroyed the same, together with the furniture, before it could be got under. The military and the gentlemen having the direction of the engines gave very prompt assistance.

November.—The bridge at Glenwhelt, on the military road and confines of Northumberland, was broken down and swept away by the river, which had been raised to a great height by incessant rains. The bridge across the Tyne at Ridley-hall was also carried away, and much damage was done at various other places by the overflowing of the rivers.

December 1.—An explosion took place in the colliery at Hartley, by which unfortunate event, Mr. Curry, the viewer, and four others lost their lives.

December 8.—An explosion took place in Long Benton colliery, which burnt one man in a terrible manner; providentially no further mischief was done, which seemed almost a miracle, as the pit was full of workmen at the time.

December 12.—The great contest for the representation of the city of Durham betwixt Major-general John Lambton and Ralph Gowland, esq., was concluded. On this occasion 215 *mushroom* freemen were admitted to vote; these gave Mr. Gowland a majority, and he took his seat in the house. When the occasional or *mushroom* freemen, made expressly for the purpose of Mr. Gowland were set aside, General Lambton had a majority of 192, in consequence of which the General petitioned the House of Commons, and, on the 11th of May 1762, it was resolved by a majority of 88 to 72, that the occasional freemen had no right to vote, and the return was ordered to be amended by *raising* out the name of Ralph Gowland, and inserting that of John Lambton, esq. General Lambton made a sort of *joyeuse entrée* into the city of Durham on the 18th of June 1762, being met at Sunderland bridge by great numbers of the freemen, with music, drums, colours, banners, and every other ensign of honour. At Elvet bridge he left his carriage, and was chaired through the principal streets to the Queen's Head.

Ford Castle, which in Leland's time was "meatly strong, but in decay," was rebuilt by the late Lord Delaval in the above, year.

This year, Dormer Parkhurst, esq., master of Greatham, began to erect an hospital for six poor widows or spinsters, being 50 years of age, for whom he built six neat separate apartments, with a plot of ground to each. The buildings were completed the next year. Each inmate receives £1. per month, 4s. at Christmas, 2s. at Whitsuntide, and 2s. at Easter; a gown once a-year, and a reasonable quantity of coals. The deed of endowment bears date Oct. 12th, 1762. *See the year 1272.*

1762 (*Jan. 9*).—War was declared against Spain at the usual places

in Newcastle. The ceremony was performed by the sheriff's sergeant in the presence of the mayor, the magistrates, and other officers of the town. The procession was greeted by the populace, who signified their approbation by loud huzzas and acclamations.

1762 (*March 23*).—Died, Mr. John Jopling, of Barnardcastle, aged 108 years. He retained his faculties to the last, and what was remarkable, he had been bled once a-year for many years.

March 27.—There were great rejoicings at Stockton on receipt of the news of the bill being past for building a bridge over the Tees at that place.

April 13.—The twin-daughters of the right worshipful Aubone Surtees, esq., mayor of Newcastle, were baptized at St. Nicholas' church by the names of Barbara and Ann. The company on the occasion were of the most brilliant description, and the ladies were preceded by the town's band of music (*waits*), and also saluted with peals of bells. There is nothing remarkable in all this, but it is here given to shew that formerly the higher orders thought it no degradation to have music attending them through the streets on these occasions.

April 21.—A black boy from the Malabar coast, who was brought over in Admiral Pocock's fleet was baptized at St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, by the name of Thomas Gateshead.

June 16.—A girl, at Tanfield, in the county of Durham, going with a light to burn some whins, a spark blew from it and set fire to a stack of straw, which was communicated to some thatched cottage houses, and about thirty of them were burnt before it could be extinguished.

August 9.—Thomas Coulson was executed at Durham, for the murder of Thomas Byers,

August 15.—When the news arrived in Newcastle of her majesty, Queen Charlotte having been delivered of an heir to the crown of these kingdoms (the late King George IV.), at St. James's Palace on the 12th; the bells were rung, and every demonstration of joy exhibited. On the following day (*Monday*), Sir Digby Legard's regiment of Yorkshire militia was drawn up in Pilgrim Street, and fired three excellent vollies on the occasion. An address of congratulation to his majesty on the happy event was sent from the mayor, recorder, aldermen, sheriff, and common council of Newcastle, which was presented by the earl of Northumberland.

At Durham the bells were rung, and Colonel Thornton's militia were drawn up before the Town-hall, where they made several excellent fires. At night the city was beautifully illuminated, and an entertainment was given by the mayor to the officers and gentlemen, when several loyal healths were drunk under the discharges of a party drawn up for that purpose.

Addresses of congratulation were sent from the county of Northumberland, town of Berwick, &c. &c.

August.—A large stone, computed to weigh upwards of 20 tons, commonly called *the Grey Mare*, was taken out of the river Tyne,

opposite the glass-houses below the bridge, at Newcastle. It was weighed up with keels, under the direction of Captain Errington, the town's surveyor.

1762 (*Sept. 27*).—St. Ann's Chapel, Newcastle, having become ruinous and too small to contain the inhabitants of the eastern district of that town, the right worshipful Aubone Surtees, esq., mayor, the aldermen, and common council, on the above day, unanimously resolved that a neat and commodious chapel, and in a more commodious situation, should be built at the expense of the corporation.

December 27.—As the hounds of John Tweddell, of Unthank, in Northumberland, esq., were hunting, they ran a hare on Ramshawmoor, and taking among the rocks, which are there in great abundance, the dogs giving up, a general search began, when one of the men discovered, in a cavity, a large quantity of silver coins, which, on examination, were found to be shillings and smaller coins of Edward I. and II. They were claimed by John Tweddell, esq., as lord of the manor.

Same month, as two men were driving a bull from a field on to the north road, near Stanington, he broke from them and leaped over a hedge, under which two women were resting themselves, and falling on them, the one was killed instantly, and the other much hurt.

This year, in digging up some of the foundations of the Roman station at *Caeravorran*, in Northumberland, some very large coal cinders were turned up, which glowed in the fire like other cinders, and were not known from them when taken out. This is an incontestible proof that the Romans were well acquainted with our pit coal.

In digging a grave in a pew under one of the windows of Simonburn church in Northumberland, a very remarkable skull was turned up with the spade; on the back part of it was the figure of a large scallop-shell, and at one of the auditories, of a torcular shell like a screw. It is not stated whether these were sculptured or adhesions of petrified matter.

About this year, Rowland Wetherald, settled in Sunderland as a teacher of the mathematics. Observing the inconvenience under which gentlemen of the law and others laboured on being obliged to send their hand-bills, &c., to Newcastle for the purpose of being printed, he commenced the typographic art in the High-street; he afterwards removed to a more commodious situation in Maud's-lane, where the concern was carried on till his death, which happened June 19th, 1791.

1763 (*Jan. 10*).—Leave having been granted by his majesty, the workmen began on the above day to pull down that part of the town wall which extended along the quay at Newcastle.

January 17.—On account of the indisposition of the chief magistrate of Newcastle, a meeting of the common-council was held at the mansion-house, and the guild in the town's-court, and on the

19th (Wednesday) the general quarter-sessions of the peace were held in the mansion-house on the same account.

1763 (*Jan. 18*).—After several weeks of severe frost, most of the rivers in this part of the country were so effectually frozen over, as rendered them capable of sustaining a number of persons for miles together. The river Wear, upon which there was a clear passage from Chester-le-street to Durham was greatly resorted to by the gentlemen of that neighbourhood for the exercise of skaiting. At Alnwick during this intense frost, skaiting was much practised on the river there, particularly on the above day, which was celebrated as the anniversary of her majesty's birth day, when a great concourse of people assembled to see the performances of the skaiters, who had a tent fixed on the ice wherein they dined, and the ladies who went as spectators were treated with wine, &c. At Hexham, a whole sheep was roasted upon the ice, and great numbers assembled to witness the various diversions which were going on daily.

February 16.—Died, at East Thirston, in the parish of Felton, Northumberland, Mr. Thomas Heron, aged 109 years.

February 18.—The petitions of the right worshipful Cuthbert Smith, esq., mayor, and the common council of Newcastle, and that of the inhabitants of the same corporation for lighting the streets of that town were presented to parliament.

February 23.—A fire engine cylinder was landed at Wincomblee coal staith on the river Tyne, for the use of Walker colliery, which surpassed every thing of the kind which had been seen in the north. The diameter of the bore measured upwards of 74 inches, and it was 10½ feet in length. Its weight, exclusive of the bottom and the piston, was 6½ tons, containing altogether between 10 and 11 tons of metal. The bore was turned perfectly round and well polished. It was considered a complete piece of work, and did honour to Colebrook Dale Foundry in Shropshire, where it was manufactured. When the engine to which this cylinder was attached was completed, it would have a force to raise water of above 307 cwt.

February.—Died, at Haltwhistle, in Northumberland, Thomas Pratt, aged 115 years. His faculties were so strong, that he sang a song a few days before he died.

March 11.—As some men were digging in Axwell Park, Durham, they discovered an urn with a little dust in it, and, by going further, they found a large stone coffin, in which was a skull with the teeth very fresh, and several bones of a great size.

March 21.—Died, at his seat at Blagdon, Sir Matthew White, bart., lieutenant-colonel of the Northumberland militia, and a vice president of the Infirmary, at Newcastle.

March 29.—The right worshipful the mayor and aldermen of Newcastle, attended by their officers, proclaimed the peace with France and Spain at the usual places with the accustomed formalities, amidst a great concourse of the inhabitants, who expressed their joy by the most joyful acclamations.

1763 (*April*).—An act for lighting the streets, and other places, and maintaining a nightly watch within the town and county of Newcastle upon Tyne, and for regulating the hackney coachmen and chairmen, cartmen, porters, and watermen, within the same, received the royal assent. The public lamps set up in Newcastle, pursuant to Act of Parliament, were lighted for the first time, and the watchmen went their rounds in their several districts on the 29th of September the same year.

April.—This month, workmen began laying the foundation of a new square at North Shields, called Dockwray Square, the ground having been the property of a gentleman of that name.

The same month, died at Newbrough, in the parish of Wardell, Northumberland, Alice Wilson, aged 111 years. She enjoyed good health till within three days of her death, and what was remarkable, in the same parish, there was living at the same time, a woman 115 years old, who rode abroad and practised midwifery.

May 1.—William Douglas, a felon, made his escape from the gaol of Newgate, Newcastle. He was confined for having robbed the office of his master, Mr. Armorer, in the Broad Chare in that town.

May 5.—Being the day appointed for a general thanksgiving for peace, at Newcastle, the morning was ushered in with ringing of bells, &c. Service was performed in the several churches, and at noon the magistrates and other gentlemen assembled on the Sandhill, where several excellent fires were made by the North British Fusileers, after which, their majesties' healths were drunk from a fountain running wine, erected on the occasion, and then left to the populace, who made excellent diversion. A grand entertainment was given at the mansion-house. In the evening there was an assembly, and the day concluded with illuminations, guns firing, &c.

May 12.—A concert of vocal and instrumental music was opened in the Spring Gardens, at the head of Gallowgate, Newcastle. It was intended to be continued every Thursday evening for sixteen weeks every summer. Tickets for the season half a guinea. All persons without tickets to pay one shilling each night at the gate. The first night there was a most numerous and genteel audience, who expressed great satisfaction at the performance. The performers were several gentlemen of the choir at Durham, the band belonging Lord George Lennox's regiment, and the town's music.

May 26.—Died, at his son's house, at Axwell Park Lodge, Mr. Richard Teasdale, of Slaley, in Northumberland, aged 103.

May 31.—The old colours of the 25th regiment of foot (Lord George Lennox's), quartered in Newcastle, being so much wounded in Germany, and particularly at the glorious and ever memorable battle of Minden, were buried with military honours.

May.—A subscription was opened in Newcastle, for the erection of an hospital, for the relief of lunatics.

June.—Died, near Stockton, Durham, Rachel Weatherby, aged 110 years. She could read without spectacles, and retained her memory to the last.

1763 (*June*).—This month, Joseph Oxley, of Russell's factory, near Newcastle, obtained a patent, for an invention of a machine for drawing coals out of coal-pits by the help of fire,

August 1.—Margaret Middleton, *alias* Coulson, was executed at Durham, for the murder of a female bastard child, named Lucy Curry, whom she had for a considerable sum of money taken to bring up. The child was afterwards found drowned near Sunderland bridge.

August 2.—The arch over the river Tees, at Winston Ford, near Gainford, Durham, was keyed. It measured between the land stowls 112 feet, was 22 feet broad, and 20 feet within the parapet walls, and was said by architects to be the largest arch in Europe. It was built from a design by the late Sir Thomas Robinson.

August 8.—A beggar woman named Ann Forster, coming from Morpeth, met with a child about three years old, belonging to a person at Shotton Edge, near Blagdon, that had strayed a little way from home, she took it up and carried it off. Being soon missed, diligent search was made for it, but to no effect, till a dog which used to follow it was observed to make motions to go towards Newcastle, on which they followed him to Gateshead, a distance of nine miles, when the father got intelligence of such a child being with a beggar woman, whom he soon found, and took the child from her, and brought her before Matthew Ridley, *esq.*, at Blagdon, who committed her to the house of correction at Morpeth.

September 9.—Was launched from Mr. Airey and Co.'s yard, near Newcastle, amidst a great concourse of spectators, the *Solebay*, a frigate of 28 guns.

September 15.—The earl of Northumberland having been appointed by his majesty King George III., to be lord lieutenant of Ireland, set out with his family and a splendid retinue, from Northumberland house, London, to enter upon that high office. The Middlesex militia were drawn out on Finchley common, in compliment to his lordship as he passed along; his lordship halted and reviewed them, and then passed on his journey. His lordship arrived at Dublin, on the 21st, and was received with great demonstrations of joy by all degrees of people. His grandson, the duke of Northumberland, is at present (1830) performing this high and important office.

October 8.—Was launched from Holy Island harbour, a vessel named the *Sally*, built by Mr. Edward Byram. It was a very handsome vessel of 25 keels of coals.

October 23.—In the evening, a washerwoman, named Susannah Nicholson, residing in the back Row, Newcastle, with a small knife cut and mangled herself in a most cruel manner: she cut off her nose, and both her ears, the upper eyelids of both eyes, most part of the under lip and part of the upper; she also cut about four inches across her throat, and also cut off part of both her breasts, and finished her unparalleled cruelty by stabbing herself in the left side, which entered into the cavity of the breast. In this most

awful and horrid state she lived until the next day. Coroner's verdict, *lunacy*. An account of this suicide found its way into the Paris papers, soon after it happened, and excited the horror and commiseration of all Europe.

1763 (*Nov. 1*).—A lodge of free masons was constituted at the house of Mr. John Fife, publican, in the Castle Garth, Newcastle, in due form, under the sanction of the hon. Thomas Erskine, earl of Kelly, Viscount Fenton, lord baron of Pittenweem, grand master of ancient masons in Great Britain.

November 26.—This being the day on which Lord Ossulston, son of the earl of Tankerville, attained his 21st year, it was magnificently celebrated at Chillingham castle, Wooler, and various other places.

December 1.—Early in the morning it began to rain at Newcastle, with the wind at S. E., which continued that day with the wind very high and veering between E. and N. E. At night it blew in a tempestuous manner, when great damage was done to several houses by the fall of chimnies, &c.; and by the prodigious swell of the river, which was at least three feet higher than ever known, the shops, cellars, and warehouses, in the Close, Sandhill, Quayside, and Gateshead, were many of them filled with water. The damage was computed at upwards of £4,000. The water about two o'clock on the following morning, was full three feet deep between the town-wall and the houses on the Quayside. A quantity of timber floated half way up the Broad Chare; and the sloop Billy, belonging to Newcastle, lying opposite to the old Custom-house, was driven upon the Quay, where she was left by the fall of the tide, but in the afternoon was safely launched, as were several keels and boats. Several houses above bridge, contiguous to the river, were laid under water. Some poor people lost part of their furniture; and an old woman was swept away from her house, near the Team; and an ox, which had broke loose from a slaughter-house at the Westgate, ran into the river and was drowned. At Shields, his majesty's ship Solebay, and about 20 light and laden colliers, broke from their moorings and drove towards the bar; but the weather soon after becoming temperate, and the wind changing to the southward, the Solebay and most of the others were brought to and got safe into harbour. There was a very high tide in the river Wear.

December 9.—In the evening, a fire broke out in Mr. Simpson's blue manufactory, on the Tyne, above the smelt house, west of Newcastle, which did great damage, but by the diligence of the workmen, it was happily got under before the whole was consumed.

December.—As the workmen at Alnwick castle, were taking up the foundation of an ancient tower, one of them found a gold ring, the annulus of which bore the following inscription:—“*Esperance me conforte.*” As the ring was esteemed a great curiosity, it was preserved by Mr. Robert Maddison, bailiff of the castle, for the noble owner.

This year, there was living in a little hut at Byker Hill, near

Newcastle, a man named Robert Jackson, aged 110 years. He was a soldier under James II., William and Mary, Queen Ann, and George I., and had been in the battles of the Boyne, Almanza, Malplaquet, Sheriffmuir, and Glenshiel. In his hut he solicited the charity of the humane passengers.

1763.—A bridge of six arches over the river Tweed, at Cornhill, was built this year.

1764 (*Feb. 23*).—Died in the Close, Newcastle, Ralph Hart, weaver, in the 116th year of his age, who retained his faculties to the last. He had been for several years maintained at the expence of the corporation of that town.

February 25.—Early in the morning, a fire broke out in the forecastle of the ship *European* of Whitby, lying in Shields harbour, but it was extinguished before the vessel was entirely consumed.

March 12.—The north arch of Witton bridge, near Hamsterley, in the county of Durham, gave way by suddenly springing upwards.

March 20.—The fine harbour at Seaton Sluice, about half a mile north from Hartley, in Northumberland, which had been some years in making by Sir John Hussey Delaval, was finished, and on the above day two ships went in in full sail through the canal cut out of a solid rock 900 feet long, 54 feet deep, and 30 feet broad. An elegant entertainment was given by Sir John to a great number of ladies and gentlemen; three oxen, several sheep, and plenty of strong ale, were given to the workmen. On the 22d, the *Warkworth*, Captain Curry, a vessel of 13 keels of coals sailed out of the new harbour, being the first after its completion.

March 24.—Was published the first number of the *Newcastle Chronicle*, or *General Weekly Advertiser*, newspaper, by Mr. Thomas Slack. It is still published under its first title by his grandsons, Messrs. Thomas and James Hodgson.

March.—The Society of Arts presented a premium of ten guineas to Mr. Handyside, of Wooler, in Northumberland, for the second best painting in enamel.

April 1.—Notices were given in the newspapers, that on account of the great eclipse on this day (Sunday), morning service would not be begun in any of the churches in Newcastle, until 12 o'clock, and evening service not before 4 o'clock.

May 10.—The right worshipful, William Clayton, esq., mayor of Newcastle, several of the aldermen, and the building committee, marked out a piece of ground near the old St. Ann's chapel, at the east end of Sandgate, for a new edifice on a plan to hold 600 people. The old chapel being too small and become ruinous.

May 14.—Many large salmon were taken in the river Tyne, at Newburn:—One in particular which measured 5½ feet in length, was 28 inches round, and weighed 54lbs. This was supposed to be the largest fish of the kind that had been caught in that river.

June 4.—The grand illumination designed by the earl and countess of Northumberland, as a compliment to his majesty's birth

day, was this evening exhibited at Northumberland house, in the Strand, London; 1,500 persons of distinction were invited; the garden was decorated with 10,000 lamps; 400 were fixed to the ballustrades, descending by the steps; these had a most beautiful effect. There was a grand display of fire-works of the most costly kind. Two bands of music were provided, one in the great gallery, which was most splendidly illuminated; the other in the garden; each answered the other alternately; and upon the Marquis of Granby's entrance, struck up—"He comes, he comes, the conquering hero comes!" which was instantly followed by a general huzza from the whole company.

1764 (*June 16*).—Died at Stranton, near Morpeth, Elizabeth Elsdon, aged 106 years. She retained her faculties to the last. Her husband died the January preceding, aged 104 years. In the same place there was living at that time, Elizabeth Wheeler, aged 104, in such health and vigour as to be able to walk 20 miles a-day.

July 2.—His grace the lord-archbishop of York arrived in Newcastle, and on the following day set out for Hexham, to hold a confirmation there, and also to consecrate a chapel at Whitley, near that place, and another at Ninebanks, near Allendale. He was attended by Sir Walter Blackett, bart., by whose benevolence, both these chapels, formerly curacies were liberally endowed. *July 3d*, his grace the duke of Portland, and Lord George Bentinck, arrived in Newcastle, and dined with William Clayton, esq., mayor, at the Mansion-house, and on the following morning, set out for Morpeth, from whence they went on the 7th to meet his grace the archbishop and Sir Walter Blackett, at Wallington.

July 8.—Sunday morning, about 4 o'clock, a keelman, named Robert Lindsey, having got on a wall in a lane near to the house of a pawnbroker, named George Stewart, in Sandgate, Newcastle, was desired by Stewart's wife to come down and go home, which he refusing, some high words passed, and she struck at him out of the window with a pair of tongs; and the quarrel increasing, Stewart himself got up, and taking a loaded gun from his bed head, told Lindsay, if he would not go down, he would shoot him; which he still refusing, he snapped the gun at him, and ordering his wife to bring him some more powder, she primed the gun, which he then fired, and shot him dead. The coroner's inquest brought in their verdict *wilful murder*, against Stewart and his wife, who were both committed to Newgate, to take their trials at the assizes. *August 27th*, Stewart was executed on the town moor, Newcastle, pursuant to his sentence, for the murder of Robert Lindsay, and his body was given to the surgeons for dissection, when Mr. Lambert, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Tyzack, and Mr. Smith, surgeons, lectured on the same.

July 13.—About eight o'clock in the evening, there fell at Hartlepool and the neighbourhood, a shower of pieces of ice in various forms, clear as crystal, and measuring from three to five inches in circumference. It lasted about 15 minutes, but no great damage was done, as the weather in other respects was calm.

1764 (*July 20*).—Such a great quantity of salmon was taken in the river Tyne, that it was sold for a penny farthing per pound.

This month, the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, awarded to Thomas Fenwick, esq., of Lemmington, near Alnwick, a gold medal for having planted 104,000 Scots firs.

August 17.—Died, at Ponteland, in Northumberland, Elizabeth Lions, aged 112 years, who retained her senses perfectly to the last.

August 23.—The foundation stone of a new bridge over the river Tees, at Stockton, was laid. It was opened to the public in April, 1771. It consists of five arches, the span of the centre arch is 72 feet, the two next 60 feet, and the two end arches 44 feet each. The width of the bridge between the walls is 21 feet, the carriage road being 18 feet, and 3 more allowed for a raised causeway for foot passengers. The whole erection with the road at the ends cost £8,000.

August 27.—Died, at Mr. Parker's, the Turk's Head inn, in Newcastle, whither he had come for the recovery of his health, the right hon. Lord Belhaven, of the Beil, in the shire of Haddington, near Edinburgh. On the 30th, his remains were removed from Newcastle, to be deposited in the family vault. His lordship dying without issue, his title and estates descended to his only brother, the honourable Mr. Hamilton.

August.—A most elegant market house and shambles were built in the town of Alnwick, at the expence of the earl and countess of Northumberland, and which were by them presented to that town.

September 3.—James Edgar, found guilty at the assizes in Newcastle, of a burglary and larceny committed in the house of Edward Bigge, esq., at West Jesmond, near Newcastle, was executed at the Westgate. At the place of execution, he was dressed in a shroud without either coat or waiscoat, and attended by four dissenting ministers. He behaved with great decency, earnestly exhorting the spectators by his unhappy fate. Edgar, who was a cobbler, in Sandgate, with a man named Thomas Harrison, a hawker, and Isabella, his reputed wife, with Alexander Simpson, her son, a boy about eight years of age, were apprehended in Sandgate, on the 6th of January, 1764, for the above burglary, and on searching Edgar's house, where Harrison and his reputed wife lodged, the stolen goods were found. Edgar confessed the fact, and charged Harrison and his wife with being his accomplices, who he said first put the boy in at the window; afterwards the woman found means to get in, and Harrison and he staid without and received the stolen goods. The accomplices were acquitted.

September 22.—Died, at the Rev. Mr. Spence's, in the city of Durham, Mr. Robert Dodsley, one of the most eminent booksellers in London, and author of many ingenious pieces both in prose and verse. His remains, which were interred on the 25th, lie under an altar tomb in the cathedral church yard.

October 17.—As the Rev. Mr. Leake, of Stanhope, in Weardale, who had been on business at Newcastle, was going to Whickham,

where he intended to stop all night, he unfortunately lost his way, and endeavouring to cross the river Team, his horse stuck fast in the mud, and he was drowned. He was found next morning along with his horse, which had not been able to disengage itself, but almost dead with lying so long in the mud.

1764 (*Oct. 29*).—As two men were riding on a young horse to the Cowhill fair, Newcastle, in passing a windmill on the Windmill-hills, the horse took fright, and running away with them, leaped down a quarry upwards of 27 feet deep. The horse was killed on the spot, but neither of the men were hurt.

This month, as some men were repairing the floor of the vestry in the parish church of Sedgefield, in the county of Durham, they found a large stone image, curiously cut out, near six feet long, and lying in full length, with an arch over it, but no inscription appeared upon it.

November 1.—The right worshipful Sir Walter Blackett, bart., mayor of Newcastle, and the magistrates, accompanied by the greatest number of free-burgesses and gentlemen that had ever been known on a like occasion, perambulated the boundaries of that corporation. After meeting at the mayor's chamber in the morning and drinking a glass of wine, the procession moved along the Close, several men walking before them with spades and axes over their shoulders as pioneers to remove obstructions, and to abolish all undue encroachments upon the rights and privileges of the corporation, next the Free Porters with their halberts, two men on horseback with two panniers each, containing figs, prunes, &c. (which were thrown among the people by the town marshal, at every boulder stone, &c.) Seven sergeants at mace with banners, music, &c. Where houses stood on the line of boundary, men were ordered to go over them and take off bricks, tiles, &c. as the town's property. Many guns were fired and other compliments paid at different places; the bells were rung all the day. Sir Walter Blackett with his usual benevolence, in passing the Infirmary, sent the town marshal with his good wishes for the prosperity of that laudable institution, accompanied with a present of ten guineas. After the procession, the mayor gave an elegant entertainment, and the day was concluded with drinking loyal healths, &c.

November 6.—At a meeting of the rector, curate, and inhabitants of Sunderland, a plan for building a new chapel was unanimously approved of, and in the space of twelve hours £2,030. were subscribed towards putting the same in execution.

November 12.—About ten o'clock at night, a fire broke out in a room within the great tower of the castle of Newcastle, which destroyed goods to the amount of £160. which had been deposited there.

November 27.—A servant girl in the night, in going over Blackburn Fell, near Gibside, Durham, had the misfortune to fall into an old coal pit, thirty fathoms deep, and at the bottom was taken up to her arm-pits in water. In struggling to get out of the water, she luckily met with a piece of timber, which she got upon, and as

it kept her pretty clear of the water, was the means of saving her life. She continued in that dismal situation two days and two nights, and was discovered at last by the sagacity of a dog, which having heard her cries, &c., made signs of distress to his master, which induced him to follow it to the very pit mouth. The man then with proper assistance got her out alive, by which means she was restored to her friends.

1764 (*Dec. 9*).—A terrible fire broke out at Dukesfield, near Hexham, occasioned by making a fire in a barn or out-house to dry some deals, by which two houses and two hay stacks, valued at £150., belonging to Mr. Hunter, were consumed.

December 19.—In the evening, a fire broke out in Mr. Williams' glass house, in the Close, Newcastle, occasioned by the foulness of the chimney, which taking fire, some of the sparks got in between the tiles, and setting fire to the roof, it was consumed. The building being near the river which was then at its height, with proper assistance the fire was got under.

December 27.—Being the anniversary of St. John, the ancient and honourable society of free and accepted masons of the lodges in Sunderland, joined by their brothers from Durham, Newcastle, Shields, and parts adjacent, went in grand procession to church, where an occasional sermon was preached by the Rev. brother Barwise; from whence, with their worshipful master, brother Inman, at their head, accompanied by the rector, the curate, and the principal inhabitants, they proceeded to the east end of the town, where amidst thousands assembled, the first stone of a chapel, dedicated to St. John the evangelist, was laid by brother John Thornhill, esq., who with a truly public spirit had generously undertaken to plan and execute the building upon the estate of Marshall Robinson, of Herrington, esq., who had generously made a donation of the ground, although it had been before purchased of him. After the ceremony was concluded the society proceeded to brother Adam Turner's, where an elegant entertainment was provided, and the whole concluded with the utmost harmony and good order.

This year, Castle Eden church was erected by Rowland Burdon, esq.

Died, at Morpeth, Ephraim Randall, aged 109 years.

This year, the Presbyterian Meeting-house, in the High Bridge, Newcastle, was commenced building, and finished in the year following. The celebrated Chinese linguist and missionary, the Rev. Robert Morrison, who served his apprenticeship to his father, a heel and last maker in the Groat Market, Newcastle, was a member of this congregation, amongst whom he received his religious education. In 1818, while resident at Macao, he received from the University of Glasgow, the degree of D. D. as a compliment for his distinguished skill in Chinese literature. In 1824, while on a visit to his native town, he preached in the High Bridge Meeting House, for the first time on the 21st April, to an excessively crowded auditory. Dr. Morrison was born at Morpeth, January 5th, 1782. His father came from Dunfermline, in Scotland,

and his mother was a Northumbrian; they removed to Newcastle, when Robert was very young.

1765 (*Jan. 2*).—A lodge of free and accepted masons was duly constituted at Mrs. Bond's, the sign of the Old George, in North Shields, when brother Hunter, the master elect, and his officers, were with great solemnity (according to ancient form,) invested with the proper jewels of their respective offices, by their brother Robert Green, deputed for that purpose, by the hon. the earl of Kelly, grand master of Great Britain. On the following day they assembled at the Low-lights, together with their brethren from Newcastle, Sunderland, and other places adjacent, from whence they walked in procession to Mrs. Bond's making a very grand show.

January 19.—Notice was given by advertisement, "That Mr. James M'Donnell, dissenting Minister, had taken a convenient piece of ground without Pilgrim Street Gate, Newcastle, to build a meeting-house upon, at the desire and importunate request of several of his friends." April 1st the foundation stone was laid by Mr. M'Donnell, who stood upon the stone, and preached to a great number of people assembled on the occasion, after which a handsome collection was made towards carrying on the building. It is at present a dwelling house in Lisle Street. Brand says "A fanatic of the name of Mackdonald, erected a building, called the Tabernacle, down an entry almost opposite to the Orphan House, but meeting with little or no encouragement, he left the town and went to Manchester." He preached his farewell sermon, July 31st, 1768.

January.—Was married at St. John Lee, near Hexham, Robert Scott, a piper of Wall, aged 90, to Jean Middlemas, aged 25. The person who acted as father was a piper, and the bride's maid was a piper's daughter, and what was very remarkable, though the bridegroom had used crutches for near 26 years before, he threw them away that morning, and walked to and from church (about 6 miles) without them. After the ceremony was over, the parson treated the company with cakes and ale; and at the bridegroom's house at Wall, a dinner was provided and the afternoon spent with the utmost mirth and jollity, having several pipers and fiddlers to entertain them.

January.—Died, at Castle Eden, in the county of Durham, Robert Moffitt, aged 104 years, who retained his faculties to the last.

February 6.—A market was held at Corbridge, for corn, poultry, butter, &c. About 300 persons attended, when a proclamation was made for holding a market weekly, on the Friday, pursuant to an old statute.

February 18.—A cod-fish was sold at Blyth, to Mr. Harbottle, of Bedlington, in the belly of which there was found a gold ring, which it was supposed had lain there for a considerable time, as the inscription was defaced or eaten off, though the scroll of the ground appeared plain to denote it a mourning ring.

1765 (*March 5*).—A storm of snow, &c. came on in the evening with such violence, and continued all night, that not only many flocks of sheep were drifted, but sundry persons lost their lives, by being exposed to the excessive cold and the severity of the weather. One remarkable instance happened near Alham, in Northumberland, where two sons of a farmer being at school, a servant lad, about 14 years of age, was despatched with a horse to bring them safely home, but on their return (being confounded by the raging of the tempest) they lost their way and wandered about until their dismal situation so terrified them, that they deserted the horse, and the youngest of the boys laid himself quietly down in the snow, but his eldest brother being in great distraction ran backward and forward till being spent, and his strength quite exhausted, he sunk down and expired. His brother and the servant continued still alive, but in a torpid and benumbed state, till they were found the next day, the servant leading the horse and the youngest boy (between six and seven years old) on horseback, holding the body of his dead brother before him.

March 12.—The weather still continuing tempestuous, a most remarkable and unfortunate accident happened on the road between Newcastle and Shields. Mr. Shotton, jun., of High Flatworth, and Mr. Redhead, a farmer, near the said road, being returning home, and both riding in full gallop in contrary directions, and the night dark and snowing, they met full upon each other with the impetus of both horses, and the shock was so great that the horses were killed upon the spot, and their riders thrown with extreme force one against the other, and thence to the ground, so that both lay for dead, and most probably would have been so if the father of Mr. Shotton had not been present, who procured immediate assistance. Mr. Redhead besides many wounds and bruises received a fracture in his skull, and remained ~~for~~ some days insensible. Mr. Shotton was in a condition very little better.

March 13.—A house at the south-east corner of St. Nicholas' church-yard, in Newcastle, by the bank giving way occasioned by great falls of snow and rain, fell down, but fortunately some persons who were in the house being called to by a man who perceived the house giving way, got safely out almost at the instant it fell.

March 13.—A new ship of 300 tons burthen was launched at Alnmouth, in Northumberland. Being the first vessel which had been built there, a great number of spectators attended to witness so great a novelty.

March.—The quantity of snow, sleet, and rain, which fell this month, swelled the rivers to an alarming degree. The river Coquet, in Northumberland, left its old course below the village of Warkworth, and forced its way between two sandy hills, overgrown with bent that had obstructed its passage for ages, by which it opened a passage into the sea above a mile nearer than its former channel.

March 19.—A new engine, with many improvements on a previously invented machine for drawing coals out of the pits without

horses, erected at Hartley, by Thomas Delaval, esq., was set to work with incredible success. By this means coals were drawn out of that deep mine at the rate of a corf per minute. The machine and improvements were invented by Mr. Joseph Oxley. This was the second machine which had been erected at this colliery, and was of so simple a construction, that the whole worked upon two axle-trees of about five feet long.

1765 (*March 20*).—The workmen began pulling down the old houses near the Low Crane, on the Quay Side, Newcastle, for the erection of the present Custom-house, which was finished on a neat and elegant plan. The old Custom-house was at the west end of the Quay Side. The establishment was removed in 1766 to the new building. The old building is now a public house, known by the name of the "Old Custom-house."

April 1.—A terrible explosion took place at Walker colliery, near Newcastle. The workings of this mine were about 100 fathoms below the surface of the earth. The foul air fired in an instant, and the explosion which immediately followed, made a report as loud as thunder. There were no lives lost, but the workmen were in a most miserable condition, being scorched and burnt to a very frightful degree. As soon as it could be done all possible assistance was given to the sufferers, who, on being drawn up, were sent to the Infirmary. On the day following, several overmen and others descended to examine the state of the mine, when, dreadful to relate, it fired a second time, and killed eight persons and seventeen horses, who were all burnt in a most shocking manner.

June 14.—Merrill Nicholson, aged 104 years, was buried at Sunderland; her life had been a continued series of health and activity for eighty years together, and her faculties were strong and perfect to the last.

June 24.—The sexton of St. Andrew's church, in Newcastle, was found dead in a grave which he had been digging.

June 29.—On the morning of this day, 149 fine large salmon were taken at one draught, at the fishery, near the bar at Shields.

July 2.—The golden arrow, according to annual custom (founded in 1673), was shot for at Ferryhill, by twenty gentlemen of the long bow, which was won by Mr. Thomas Watson, of Darlington, and the lieutenantancy, by Thomas Kelly, of Richmond. Great bets were depending on this trial between the gentlemen of Durham and Darlington, which were won by the latter.

July 16.—A fire broke out in a fulling mill about a mile below Alnwick, which burnt with great fury until the whole was consumed.

July.—Died at Shield Dykes, near Alnwick, Eleanor Anderson, aged 107 years. Her faculties were remarkably strong, and till the day of her death she was a stranger to sickness.

July 21.—In consequence of the ruinous state of the old St. Ann's chapel, at the east end of Sandgate, Newcastle, it was advertised that divine service would commence on the above day,

and continue to be performed in the Shipwrights'-hall (Carpenters'-tower), every Sunday, in the morning and afternoon, until the new chapel was finished, the service commencing at the same time with All Saints'. The chapel and ground were consecrated by Bishop Trevor, September 2nd, 1768. No interment had taken place in this chapel ground from the time of its consecration until April 30th, 1828, when the remains of Mr. George Henderson, of St. Ann's Row (adjoining the ground), were interred there. From the crowded state of the church yards in Newcastle, this ground was opened to the public as a place of general sepulture. A large concourse of people assembled on the occasion, and the solemn and impressive service was read by the Rev. John Dodd, vicar of Newcastle, to whom the public were indebted for this arrangement. It may be interesting to future historians, to know that Mr. Henderson's grave was dug close to the south-east angle of the chapel. The present chapel, of which the following is a representation, was built by Mr. Newton, architect, with the stones of the old town's wall, which formerly ran along the Quay Side. The upper part of the steeple having for a considerable time been out of its perpendicular, and its fall apprehended, it was, in October 1826, taken down and rebuilt with larger stones than had been before used in its erection.



1765 (*July 29*).—About three o'clock in the afternoon, Elizabeth Renwick, an elderly woman, was murdered in her son's house at Newbrough, near Hexham, while the family were at the hay-field, and the house robbed of £58. The murderers had used her most barbarously, several parts of the house being stained with her blood, particularly the chest where the money lay.

August 15.—Joseph Hall, a soldier in the 6th regiment (General Guise's) quartered in Newcastle, was executed at Morpeth, for a highway robbery near Gosforth. The following are the particu-

lars :—Sept. 11, 1764, about eight o'clock at night, as Mr. William Cuthbertson, hair-dresser of Newcastle, was returning from Morpeth in a post chaise, he was attacked by a foot pad a little beyond the three-mile bridge, who, without speaking a word, discharged a pistol at the driver, which blew off his cap, and burnt his face in a terrible manner, on which the horses took fright and galloped off, leaving the villain behind, who soon after attacked two persons on horseback, and ordering them to stand, presented a pistol at one of them, which flashed in the pan, on this they galloped off and left him. In the mean time, Mr. Cuthbertson having arrived at the three-mile bridge, alarmed the people there, who went in pursuit and presently took him. He proved to be a soldier in his uniform, which he had turned inside out; on searching him, two pistols with some balls, also the driver's cap were found upon him. Next morning he was taken before John Blenkinsopp Coulson, esq., one of his majesty's justices of the peace, and being examined, confessed the whole affair.

1765 (*August 31*).—The following curious advertisement appeared in a Newcastle newspaper of this date,—

“ S. BOVERICK, WATCH MAKER,

In the Groat Market, Newcastle, begs leave to acquaint the Curious in the MEDAL Way,

That he has discovered a particular neat Manner of taking the IMPRESSIONS off from all sorts of MEDALS; the matter of which they are made being far more durable than any yet made use of. He sells them either in a Collection in Frames, or singly gilt, or plain white; or if any Person chuses a particular Colour, by giving Time, may be accommodated. A specimen may be seen of both gilt and plain at the above place. N. B.—His collection of MINIATURE CURIOSITIES, made by himself, consisting of a Chaise, weighing but one Dram, drawn by a Flea; a Chain, Flea, Padlock, and Key, weighing but one third of a grain; Furniture of a Dining-Room in a Cherry-stone; Landeau and Six, Drawn by a Flea; Scissars, &c. &c. &c. is Shewn at the above Shop.”

1765 (*Sept. 29*).—As Dr. Askew of Newcastle was driving up the bank between Swalwell and his country-house at Whickham, and having sent off his footman upon an errand, some boys got up behind the chaise, which the Dr. perceiving, ordered his postillion to drive them off, but while he was so doing, the horses took fright, and in full gallop running over the ledge of a steep hill, the chaise was overturned with great violence, and afterwards dragged a considerable way, till the parts which joined the fore-wheels to the carriage broke, and the horses becoming disengaged, left the rest of the chaise behind.* The doctor was very much hurt and bruised, but recovered.

* I suppose that this accident was the cause of the following invention :—
“ Feb. 11, 1766, Mr. Hillcoat, ironmonger, of Newcastle, obtained his majesty's patent for the invention of an easy method to disengage horses instantly from a carriage, and prevent accidents, which are frequently occasioned by their taking fright!”

1765 (*Oct.*).—The beginning of this month, the pitmen, in the counties of Durham and Northumberland, resumed their labour, after a *strike* of several weeks. The difference between the pitmen and coal-owners, was, according to the appeal of the former to the public:—"That most of the pitmen were bound the latter end of August, and the remainder of them were bound the beginning of September, 1764, and they served till the 24th or 25th of August, 1765, which they expect is the due time of their servitude; but the honourable gentlemen in the coal trade will not let them be free till the 11th of November 1765, which, instead of 11 months and 25 days (the respective time of their bonds) is upwards of 14 months, so the said pitmen are resolved not to work for, or serve the said gentlemen in any of the collieries till they be fully satisfied that the said article is dissolved, and new bonds and agreements entered into for the year ensuing." During this *strike*, on the "18th of September, early in the morning the mine of coal and one of the pits of Pelton Common colliery, in the county of Durham, belonging to Mrs Jennison and partners, were wilfully and maliciously set on fire," the owners offered £100. reward for the discovery of the incendiary. A most diabolical letter was sent to Mr. Alderman Bell, in Westgate Street, Newcastle. For the bringing to justice the persons concerned in writing the letter, (the actual writer excepted), his majesty's pardon was announced, and a reward of £100. was offered by the corporation of Newcastle.

October 6.—Died, at Durham, Margaret Green, aged 102 years. She retained her senses until within a few hours of her death.

October 15.—A new machine, of a particular construction, built under the direction of Mr. Robson, a very able and experienced engineer, for clearing the river Tyne, was launched off the Quay at Newcastle.

This month, died at Featherston-row, near Haltwhistle, in Northumberland, Mr. Hugh Martin, aged 109 years, possessing his faculties to the last.

October 31.—Great sorrow was expressed in the north, on the arrival of the intelligence that his royal highness the Duke of Cumberland had died on the above day, in the 45th year of his age, after a few hours' illness, at his house in Upper Grosvenor Street, London. The mourning in Newcastle was very general, as his royal highness had, by his condescension and affability, endeared himself to the inhabitants of that town during his visits before and after the suppression of the rebellion, 1746.

October.—The corporation of Newcastle granted a lease of a piece of ground in the Warden's Close, without the Westgate, for 99 years, at the yearly rent of half-a-crown, whereon to build a lunatic asylum. This month, when its foundation was being dug, the workmen found an old brass seal, inscribed, "*Vis et Deus noster.*" Mr. Newton, the architect of this building, gave the seal to Mr. Wardell, then vicar of Corbridge. It was supposed to have been the first seal of the Black Friars, or some other religious house

* *In hiset, read Jh's est, or Jesus est.*

in Newcastle. The Warden's Close was a part of the ground belonging to the Black Friars.

1765 (Nov. 1).—There was a great storm at sea, which continued for several days; two cobbles, with six men in them, were sunk at sea off Alnmouth, and two men perished in another boat in company, but the third man brought the two deceased ashore. Four fishing boats belonging to Holy Island, and two belonging to Bowmer, with four men in each, were upset and all perished. Two wherries in the river Tyne were sunk, but by assistance no lives were lost. Upwards of sixteen keels were driven out of the river at Sunderland, and sunk at sea, by which upwards of thirty keelmen were lost, most of whose bodies were afterwards found washed on to the sands. There were twenty-two widows, and fifty three children left by the sufferers. A very liberal subscription was raised for their relief.

November 13.—Died, at Newbrough, near Hexham, Jane Hogarth, aged 106 years, who retained her senses and the use of her limbs until the last.

November 27.—A violent shock, like that of an earthquake, happened at Long Benton, a village about four miles from Newcastle which disjoined all the houses built of stone upon a freestone rock. The inhabitants fled from their houses into the fields, expecting their fall every minute. The street opened and closed again from end to end; a gentleman's garden and some fields sunk above two feet, and many parts of Killingworth Moor shared the same fate, but no lives were lost. This was occasioned by the colliery at Long Benton having been wrought completely out. It was a custom at that time in working collieries, to leave as much coal as they dug away, but being a coal of great character in London, they had worked the coal pillars away, and fixed slight wooden ones in their stead, which not being sufficient to support a rock of two miles square, and seventy-five fathoms thick, being the depth of the coal pit, the whole sunk down together.

December 2.—This day, was committed to the gaol in Newcastle Mr. Thomas Jameson, an engraver of that place, who had a few days before been apprehended at Edinburgh, whither he had fled, charged with counterfeiting about a dozen five pound notes of the Newcastle Bank. Jameson, in conjunction with Mr. Whitehead, published an "*Explanation of the arms of the Incorporated Companies of Newcastle.*" Jameson engraved a view of Cawsey Bridge (Tanfield Arch), and various other views, &c., also a portrait of Dr. Isaac Watts, prefixed to an edition of the Psalms of David, "NEWCASTLE, printed for W. CHARNLEY at the Bridge End." At the assizes, Jameson was acquitted in consequence of the false swearing of the woman with whom he lodged. She kept a pie-shop in the High Bridge. See August 2d, 1766.

December 11.—Prince Joseph Abaissy, banished from Palestine, by the arbitrary power of the Grand Signior, arrived in Newcastle, on his tour through Europe. He had all suitable respect paid him,

and the right worshipful the mayor made him a very handsome present on the corporation's account.

1765 (*Dec.*).—This month, a woodcock was shot at Hartley, near Seaton Delaval, in the stomach of which was found a diamond of great value.

This year, the old thatched church at Wooler having become ruinous and unfit for service, was taken down, and the present church built.

This year an act of parliament was obtained for inclosing the common of Bolbeck, in Northumberland, which contained about 12,000 acres of land.

1766 (*Feb. 20*).—Died, in the Castle Garth, Newcastle, Henry Jackson, aged 100 years.

February.—Died at Houghton-le-spring, a woman named Hewitson, at the great age of 116 years. She enjoyed good health, and retained her senses perfect to the last.

February.—As two poor labourers were digging in the manor of Rutchester (the *Vindobala* of the Romans), they found an urn full of gold and silver coins, many of which they disposed of, but Mr. Archdeacon, lord of the manor, advertising the same, recovered, as treasure trove, near five hundred silver, and sixteen gold ones, almost a complete series of those of the higher empire; among these several *Othos*, most of them in fine preservation. Many Roman vestiges have been found in this station. Some centurial stones, and a broken statue of Hercules which had been found here, were removed to London in 1761, by Mr. Duane, the antiquary; also silver fibulæ, coins of the lower empire, and bricks inscribed L E G VI. V. have been found in this station, which appears to be rich in Roman antiquities. In June, 1766, some workmen employed in digging up stones near the place where the coins were found the preceding February, met with a cistern or trough, hewn out of the solid rock, which measured above twelve feet in length, four in breadth, and two in depth, with a hole at one end to drain it, and about three feet from the other end, a partition wall of stone and lime was run across it. There were found in it a tripod iron candlestick, a small instrument like a tooth pick, and the vertebræ and other broken and imperfect bones of some large animal which had been buried in it. To what purpose this cistern was designed is very uncertain.

March 4.—About two o'clock in the morning, the watchman at the dock at Howdon, on the river Tyne, perceived a fire breaking out in the cabin windows of the Newcastle, Greenlandman, of Newcastle, lying at Howdon quay, when he rung the alarm bell, which brought immediately all the workmen and inhabitants into the yard. The fire by that time had burnt through the deck, and got hold of the main-mast and rigging, so that they had only time to save her cables, and some other things in the fore-castle; she having come out of the dock the week before, had fortunately got none of

her Greenland stores on board. The flames being so violent, they immediately communicated to a brig belonging to Scarborough, which lay on the inside; but by the activity of the workmen, they cut away her masts and saved her rigging and cables. It being near low water, and the shore lying a long way out, there was no possibility of saving either of their hulls, which were burnt entirely to the keel; and the wind being strong at south, with great difficulty the village was saved. As there was no person lay on board either ship, it was supposed to have happened from a fire made in the Newcastle, the day before.

1766 (*March 18*).—An explosion took place in Walker colliery, by which ten lives were lost.

March 21.—Died, that distinguished scholar and critic, Richard Dawes, A. M., and author of the *Miscellanea Critica*, which is alone sufficient to immortalize his name. Mr. Dawes was appointed head-master of the Grammar School, of Newcastle, in 1738, which he resigned in 1750, and retired to Heworth, where he spent his latter days in complete seclusion from society. His chief amusement is said to have been rowing in a boat on the Tyne. "Let it be known in the annals of literature (says his biographer*) that the assailant of the great Bentley was exquisitely accomplished in the science of *bell-ringing*; and that after he relinquished his employments, he retired to the small village of Heworth, about three miles from Newcastle, where, as he had begun his life with the science of *bell-ringing* at Cambridge, he ended it with rowing on the Tyne, which became latterly his chief amusement." He was interred in Heworth chapel yard, where a head-stone is placed over his remains by a mason at Heworth Shore, as a voluntary tribute of respect. Before the re-building of Heworth chapel, the Rev. John Hodgson had the grave carefully marked with a stake, and the stone removed out of the way of injury, and, as soon as the building was completed, the "frail memorial" was moved back to its proper place, a large rolled block of basalt laid lengthways on the grave, and the following inscription on a plate of bronze sunk into it:

THE BURIAL PLACE OF RICHARD DAWES, M. A.
AUTHOR OF THE CELEBRATED WORK INTITLED
MISCELLANEA CRITICA.
LET NO MAN MOVE HIS BONES.

The mason's stone of rude workmanship was all that pointed out where lay the mortal remains of this eminent Greek scholar, until through the instrumentality of the rev. gentleman above named, a neat mural monument with a suitable inscription, executed by the late Mr. Isaac Jobling, of Gateshead, was placed in the new chapel of Heworth, in memory of this classical and eccentric man. The Rev. John Hodgson, the historian, has, from very scanty materials, drawn up a very interesting memoir of Dawes, published in the *Archæologia Æliana*, vol. ii, part 2.

* Dr. Kippis.

1766 (*April 16*).—An explosion took place in South Biddick colliery, by which several lives were lost.

May 6.—Died, at Fallow-field lead mines, near Hexham, Dorothy Frost, widow, aged 105 years, who at that great age was able to discover a pin upon the floor.

Same day, three houses were entirely consumed at Tinker Row, near Tanfield, by the carelessness of a person placing a candle too near a bed.

June.—As some workmen were pulling down an old kitchen at Dilston-hall, they found several old silver coins, and in a vault adjoining, a wooden vessel lined with lead, of an uncommon shape and quite fresh.

July 12.—A great entertainment was given at Denton Hall, the seat of the honourable Edward Montagu, M. P., for Huntingdon, on account of winning (obtaining) coal at West Denton. The coal was esteemed equal in quality to that of Long Benton, which was then worked out. All the workmen, with their wives, walked in procession to the great court before the hall, with colours flying and a band of music; from whence, after a general salute of three huzzas, they proceeded to a field east of the house, where several long tables were placed sufficient to contain all the company, consisting of 377 men and women, the tenants and workmen upon the estate. These tables were each furnished with a large piece of beef, mutton, or veal, to which were added, twice as many fruit puddings, the size of which may be guessed at by the quantity of flour used for them and the pies, which was no less than two sacks; the rest of the dinner consisted of two sheep, 144lb. each, and several hundred weight of beef, one of the sheep was roasted whole, and the other, with the beef boiled in a large brewing vessel. Abundance of ale, strong beer, and punch, was consumed. Dinner being ended, the company again returned to the great court, and being drawn up in a circle, with Mr. Montagu and his lady in the centre, they toasted the royal family, the donors, the coal trade, &c., accompanied with loud huzzas, after which they concluded the evening with country dances and other diversions, to the satisfaction of all present.

July 24.—Died at Benwell, near Newcastle, John Hogg, fisherman, aged 102 years.

August 2.—A temporary pillory was erected on the Sandhill, Newcastle, and Jean Grey, for the crime of perjury, was *exalted*, and stood therein one hour at mid-day, as an example of public shame, before upwards of 6,000 spectators, who behaved with great decency and humanity towards her. During this *exhibition*, the pickpockets were very dexterous, as a person in the crowd lost his pocket book, and several lost their pocket handkerchiefs.

August 18.—Died at Acklington, near Warkworth, Mary Humphrey, aged 102 years. Her faculties were very strong.

August 22.—A most melancholy accident happened at Lambton colliery, near Chester-le-street. The workmen, to the number of an hundred, had but just left off work, and three masons with as

many labourers, had been let down, in order to build a partition, to secure the coals from taking fire by the lamp, when the said lamp being let down at the request of the masons, to rarefy the air, the latter in an instant took fire, with a terrible explosion, made its way up the pit, destroying men, horses, and all in its passage. The noise of the explosion was heard above three miles round, and the flash was as visible as a flash of lightning; the men below were driven by the force up through the shaft or great tube, like balls out of the mouth of a cannon, and every thing that resisted shared the same fate. The neighbourhood being alarmed, collected itself in order to give assistance, but found only heads, arms, and legs, thrown out to a great distance from the mouth of the pit. The ground, for acres, was covered with timber, coals, &c. All the partitions, trap-doors, corves, wood props, and linings, were swept away, together with the engine for drawing up the coals, and all its apparatus.

1766 (*August 24*).—Died, at Hexham, Elizabeth Robison, aged upwards of 100 years.

September 9.—His serene highness Leopold Frederick Francis, passed through Newcastle, for Scotland. On the 18th, he returned to Newcastle, and on the day following, went on a visit to Sir Thomas Clavering, bart., at Axwell Park.

September 18.—Workmen began laying the foundation for a covered cross and shambles in the market-place, in Hexham. They were erected at the charge of Sir Walter Blackett, bart.

September 23.—Died, by an act of suicide (the effect of a fever), at his lodgings in Pall Mall, London, John Brown, D. D., and vicar of Newcastle. He was on his way to Petersburg, whither he had been invited by the empress of Russia, to assist in the regulation of several schools which she was about to establish. The empress had remitted the sum of 5,000 rubles to defray the expenses of this journey; her majesty's minister at the court of London had asked leave of his Britannic majesty for Dr. Brown's departure, and the Russian ministers at the several courts through which he had to pass were directed by the empress to receive and entertain him on his journey, and he was just on the eve of embarking when this dreadful act took place. Dr. Brown was a man of uncommon ingenuity; and, besides being an elegant prose writer, he was a poet, a musician, and a painter. He was born at Whitton, near Rothbury, in Northumberland, and his parents, soon after his birth, removing into Cumberland, he was carried thither in his cradle. He was inducted to the vicarage of Newcastle, by the Rev. Mr. Dockwray, January the 7th, 1761. He bequeathed the property of his writings and his library, consisting of a valuable collection of books, to the Rev. William Hall, M. A., of Newcastle. I am informed that a fine portrait of Dr. Brown, which he bequeathed to one of the Scots judges, is now in possession of a gentleman in Northumberland.

September.—Died, at Ogle, in the parish of Whalton, Northumberland, Matthew Richardson, at the great age of 111 years.

Same month, as some labourers were digging near Berwick,

they discovered a quantity of silver coins, which appeared to be Roman, and struck in the reign of Augustus Cæsar.

1766 (*Oct. 3*).—The right hon. the earl of Northumberland kissed his majesty's hand on being created a duke. On the 5th, the duke and duchess took leave of his majesty, and in the afternoon set out for Dover, from whence the duchess embarked for Calais on a tour. His grace followed in a few weeks.

October 25.—In honour of the king's accession to the throne, the bells in Durham cathedral were rung for the first time after being re-hung on one level, the tenor bell being 35 cwt. The third bell had been re-cast by Mr. George Dalton, the eight bells were framed and re-hung by Mr. Francis Ellis. The exactness of the new bell both in tune and tone to the peal, the construction of the frame, and easy ringing of the whole, were allowed by all competent judges to have been completed in a masterly manner; the length of each side of the new frame being 16 inches shorter than the old one, in which the bells hung in two heights.

November 2.—Died, at Great Whittington, in Northumberland, John Robinson, in the 103d year of his age, who, until within a few years of his death, could read without the help of spectacles.

November 8.—A horse which had been left at the door of an inn, in the Bigg Market, Newcastle, took fright, and ran furiously down the street and past the east end of Denton Chare, then by the head of the Side, and King Street, to the Long Stairs, which it leaped down with amazing expertness, and turned along the Close in full speed to the lime kilns at the foot of the Forth Banks, where he was taken. In his flight through the streets several people were knocked down and injured, particularly a man who had his skull fractured, and was otherwise terribly bruised, and a woman who had her collar bone broke.

November 11.—Died, at Whalton, near Morpeth, Margaret Pickering, aged 100 years, who retained her faculties to the last.

November 21.—A whale, measuring 17 yards in length, was caught by the crew of a ship coming from Stockton to Newcastle, and towed into Seaton, in the county of Durham; when it touched the ground it made such a noise as was heard several miles off.

December 2.—Died, at Hexham, Mrs. Mary Bell, aged 104 years. She was the oldest person in that town.

This year, died at Newcastle, Roger Dove and Elizabeth his wife. Their ages together amounted to 202 years. They died within 48 hours of each other, and were buried in the same grave.

This year, died at Sunderland, John Heather, aged 105 years.

1767 (*Jan. 7*).—Died, after a few hours' illness, Mrs. Catherine Jefferson, who kept the well-known coffee-house, called Katy's Coffee-house, on the Sandhill, Newcastle, for upwards of 50 years.

January 29.—Died, in Westgate Street, Newcastle, John Richardson, aged 101 years, who had served Mr. Swinburne's family, in the capacity of gardener, upwards of 50 years.

This month, died at Ulgham, near Morpeth, John Brotherick, aged 105 years, who retained his faculties to the last.

1767 (*March 16*).—Died, at Gateshead, Edward Train, gardener, who went by the name of "*The Hermit*." He had lived twenty years in his garden, and during that time never lay in a bed. The reason of this retired life was said to have been occasioned by a disappointment in love.

March 27.—A terrible accident happened at a colliery, near Fatfield, in the county of Durham. The colliery was 80 fathoms deep, and on the morning of the above day, when all the hands were at work, it went off with a tremendous explosion, by which 39 persons lost their lives. The bodies were found in a most mangled condition. In the Newcastle Journal of this time are the following remarks on coal mine explosions:—"As so many deplorable accidents have lately happened in collieries, it certainly claims the attention of coal-owners to make a provision for the distressed widows and fatherless children occasioned by these mines, as the catastrophe from foul air becomes more common than ever; yet, as we have been requested to take no particular notice of these things, which, in fact, could have very little good tendency, we drop the farther mentioning of it; but before we dismiss the subject, as a laudable example for their imitation, we recommend the provision made in the Trinity-house, for distressed seamen, seamen's widows, &c., which, in every respect, is praise-worthy and confers honour on that brotherhood." It was from such injunctions laid upon the newspaper editors, that these occurrences, for a great number of years, were kept as much as possible from the public.

March.—This month, three notorious felons made their escape from the gaol in Newcastle. Their names were George Gaul, Thomas Wilkinson, and John Ellerton. Gaul was under sentence of death for horse-stealing, but reprieved; Wilkinson was charged with forgery; and Ellerton was charged with horse-stealing. They were apprehended in bed at a small ale-house about ten miles north of Jedburgh.

March 30.—The vane was affixed to the spire of St. Ann's chapel, Newcastle, and the next day the scaffold was commenced taking down.

April 13.—A fine brig, called the Margaret and Winifred, was launched off Mr. Forster's quay, in Hillgate, Gateshead, being the first ever built in that street.

April 18.—Richard Clark, was executed at York, for breaking into a house near Knaresborough, in that county. As this man was one of the *Faw Gang*, which so long infested the county of Northumberland, it may not be uninteresting to relate the particulars of his life, which he left behind in his own hand writing:—He stated that he was born at Spital, near Berwick upon Tweed, in 1739; that in 1750, his father and mother, along with William Fall, John Fall, and his wife, and some others, were committed to Morpeth gaol for breaking into a shop in that town, and at the quarter sessions they were ordered to be transported for seven years. About a year after, he met with a cousin at Richmond fair, who had returned from transportation before the expiration of

the time, and soon after met with his father and mother who had also returned from transportation, and travelled about the country, and at different places put him to school. They afterwards went to Ireland, where they, with four or five more of their gang, were imprisoned for theft, but discharged for want of evidence. From thence they returned to England, where they continued their old practices of house-breaking, horse-stealing, and pocket picking. About eight years before his execution, he was convicted at the assizes at Newcastle, for a highway robbery, and transported, but returned again in less than a year, and joined his father and mother with the rest of the gang. In 1762, he was convicted of horse-stealing at Shrewsbury, where he received sentence of death, but was reprieved the day before that fixed for his execution, and afterwards transported to Maryland, from whence he also soon returned, and coming to Warrington, in Lancashire, he was informed of his wife having been hanged at Coventry. He then went in quest of his mother, and met with her at Newcastle. A short time after he was committed to Carlisle gaol for house-breaking, of which he was convicted, and in 1765 transported to Virginia, but soon returned from thence, met with his mother once more at Newcastle, and broke into several houses in the summer of 1766, but got little money or other effects, except from a house near Durham, from whence he took about £13., and the 24 guineas which he got in Mark Hattersley's house, the robbery for which he suffered. Several times when short of money he enlisted for a soldier, but always soon deserted. *See April 13, 1752, page 201.*

1767 (*April*).—This month, a very curious engine for extracting water out of ships, &c., was tried at Belford, in Northumberland. It was invented by Mr. Cuthbert Clarke of that place. This machine, with two men only, raised in one hour upwards of 20,000 gallons of water twenty feet high.

May.—Workmen commenced pulling down Dilston Hall, near Hexham, pursuant to orders from the governors of Greenwich Hospital, it being in a very ruinous condition.

May.—As some workmen were clearing away the earth and rubbish from a lime-stone quarry, near Corbridge, at the depth of about 18 inches from the surface, they found four perfect human skeletons. The bones were very fair, and exactly in the form they had been in the body when living. They seemed to have been young full-grown persons, as the teeth were white and complete in the jaws. The oldest people in the neighbourhood did not remember having heard any tradition, or account of any person having been buried near this place.

This month, died, at Newsteads, near Coquet Head, Jane Wilson, aged 101 years, who retained all her faculties.

June 9.—Was constituted (under the sanction of the right honourable Lord Blayney, grand-master in England), the lodge of free and accepted masons, held at brother Fife's, publican, in the Castle Garth, Newcastle, the said lodge having assumed a new name, viz.—that of St. Nicholas—at which time and place, brother Ansell,

the master, with his officers, were duly installed, according to the usual ceremonies on such occasions, by brother Potter, master of Sion lodge, North Shields, who, after having invested each officer with the proper jewels of their order, took their places accordingly.

1767 (*July 11*).—Mr. John Scott (now earl of Eldon, and late lord high chancellor of England), youngest son of William Scott, esq., of Newcastle, and who had been educated at the Free Grammar school in that town, under the Rev. Hugh Moises, M. A., was elected fellow of University College, Oxford. A remarkable instance of genius, as he had not then attained to the age of 16. *See April 16, 1801, and April 20, 1816.*

July 17.—The important cause relating to the liberties of the ancient corporation of Morpeth, was tried at Westminster-hall, before Lord Mansfield and a special jury, when a verdict with costs was given in favour of the burgesses. The news of this happy event was received by the people of that borough with great rejoicings. The anniversary of this day was celebrated at Morpeth for several years.

July 20.—A violent storm of thunder, lightning, rain, and hail, took place in Newcastle and the neighbourhood. A large ball of fire fell into the river Tyne, near Howdon, within a yard of a ship lying at anchor. A butcher's boy, driving a lamb, and his dog were struck by the electric fluid on Killingworth-moor, the lamb and dog were killed on the spot, and the boy died after being carried home to Shields. A four year old race horse belonging to Mr. Brandling, was killed by the lightning in a pasture, near Gosforth.

July 29.—The Rev. Nathaniel Whitaker, D. D. and the Rev. Sampson Occum, an Indian of the tribe of Moneghan, in the colony of Connecticut, in North America, arrived in Newcastle from Scotland, where, as well as in the southern part of England, they had been very successful in soliciting assistance for the Indian academy, founded and carried on by the Rev. Eleazer Wheelock, of New England, for educating youths in the English tongue. Sunday, August the 2nd, Mr. Whitaker preached in one of the dissenting meeting-houses, and on the following Sunday, Mr. Occum preached in the morning at Mr. Aitkin's meeting-house (Castle Garth), at Mr. Lowthion's chapel (Hanover Square), in the afternoon, and at Mr. Ogilvie's (Groat Market) in the evening, where very liberal collections were made for the above purpose. During their stay in Newcastle, the mayor and corporation, to testify their approbation of the plan for civilizing the native Indians of North America, paid into the hands of Dr. Whitaker, the sum of twenty guineas; many private gentlemen also contributed liberally. These reverend strangers preached at Alnwick, Morpeth, Shields, Sunderland, Durham, Stockton, &c., at all of which places they were very liberally supported in their praiseworthy undertaking. The collection in Newcastle, public and private, amounted to near £200. The Rev. Dr. Brown, vicar of Newcastle, at the close of his sermon, preached at St. Paul's cathedral, London, on Sunday, March 6th,

1763, on Religious Liberty, made several observations which seemed relative to this undertaking, among which were,—“ When the Christian missionaries shall go forth armed, not only with zeal, but knowledge, and strong in the generous and humane policy of this kingdom (both drawn from the pure fountain of the gospel), the progress of civilization, conversion, and true knowledge, after a foundation once laid, cannot but go on with rapidity and ease.”

1767 (*Oct. 15*).—At noon, Sir Walter Blackett, bart., went from the abbey at Hexham to the river, accompanied by all the gentlemen and freeholders in the neighbourhood, a pair of colours being carried before them, drums beating, music playing, attended by the company of butchers with marrow-bones and cleavers; then followed the company of free-masons; and last came Sir Walter and all the gentlemen, and in this manner proceeded to the river, where he laid the first stone of the bridge, (which measured six feet by 17 inches, upon which was this inscription, “ Laid October 15, 1767”), in the presence of some thousands of spectators, to whom three hogsheads of ale were given upon Tyne-green; after which there was a grand entertainment given at the abbey to the gentlemen and freeholders, who amounted to one hundred and seventy; and in the evening several hogsheads of liquor were drunk by the populace, and the streets rung with “ Success to the bridge of Hexham,” and “ Long live Sir Walter Blackett.” Sept. 1770, Sir Edward Blackett, bart., laid the last stone, and gave a genteel entertainment. It was built under the direction of Mr. Golt, and consisted of seven arches.

October 22.—A dreadful fire broke out in a farmer’s house at Witton-le-Wear, in the county of Durham, and the wind being violent, the whole house was in a blaze, and before assistance could be had, was burnt to the ground, with the barn and stable adjoining. The farmer’s stock was nearly all destroyed.

December 28.—Died at Morpeth, Mrs. Isabella Lumsden, aged 100 years.

This year, died at Hexham, David Chambers, weaver, formerly a soldier, aged 100 years.

Died, at Newbiggin, Thomas Johnson, aged 105 years.

This year, was discovered at Rutchester, a coffin cut in the rock twelve feet in length, containing many bones, teeth, and vertebræ or joints.

1768 (*Jan. 7*).—A wherry, in which were five men coming up the river Tyne to Newcastle, was carried away by the ice against the bridge, and stuck there till three of the men were hauled up by ropes, after which the tide forced the wherry through the bridge, with the other two men, where they were obliged to remain till the return of the tide brought them back again to the bridge, when they were relieved from their almost-frozen-to-death situation, in the same manner as their companions had been before. The weather for some time had been very severe with heavy falls of snow, so that the carriers from the north and the west could not proceed

1768 (*Jan. 21*).—A fine bull was baited on the Sandhill, Newcastle, which, with some others, was bought by a subscription of several gentlemen, and ordered to be killed and distributed to the poor. January 25th, another bull was baited on the Sandhill, when a young man, a sailor, venturing too near, the bull caught him with his horns, and gored him in such a manner, that he died next morning. Several other people were very seriously maimed. A few days after, the bull-ring was removed by order of the magistrates, in consequence of the repeated accidents which had happened by this cruel and barbarous practice.

February.—Died, at Lumley, in the county of Durham, Mr. Thomas Holme, aged 107. He was well acquainted with the history of his own times, and retained his senses to the last.

March 21.—There was a contest at Morpeth for the representation of that borough in parliament. The candidates were,—Peter Beckford, esq.,* Sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., and Francis Eyre, esq. The votes were, for Mr. Beckford 51; for Sir M. W. Ridley 29; and for Mr. Eyre, old voters 24, new or mandamus voters 12, being in all 36. At the close of the poll, the returning officers announced, quite unexpectedly, the two former duly elected, as they rejected the new, or mandamus voters. Mr. Eyre declared his intention of appealing to parliament. On an appeal to the House of Commons in February 1769, Sir M. W. Ridley carried his election by a majority of 122 to 26. On the arrival of the news in Newcastle, there were great rejoicings.

May.—There was a dangerous insurrection of the sailors in the port of Tyne, which was made under pretence of raising and regulating their wages.

June.—Died, at Swalwell, near Newcastle, John Cotterill, republican, aged 102 years. He had been many years employed at Crowley's factory.

June 14.—The coals from the new won colliery at Tanfield-moor, belonging to the right hon. the earl of Kerry, was conveyed down to the Staith at Derwent-haugh, and were considered by judges equal in quality to any coals brought to the river Tyne.

June 18.—There was at this time, at Mr. Hillcoat's, ironmonger, in Newcastle, for the inspection of the curious, the old bell belonging to St. Ann's chapel in that town, with the following inscription upon it:—"Mr. AMBROSS BARNS, Mr. GEORGE THEORSBY, SHERIFFS, 1658," from which it would appear, that at that time (during the usurpation), the government of the corporation of Newcastle, was in two sheriffs without a mayor.

August 5.—The well known Alice Marley, who kept a public house at Picktree, near Chester-le-street, being in a fever, got out of her house, and went into a field where there was an old coal pit full of water, which she fell into and was drowned.

August 12.—John Slaid was executed at Durham, pursuant to his sentence, for robbing Mr. Easterby, of Farrington Hall, near

* Nephew of William Beckford, the patriotic lord mayor of London.

Houghton-le-spring. The following are the particulars of the robbery :—June 17th, 1768, Mr. Easterby and his servant riding home from Sunderland, were stopped near the turnpike-gate by four soldiers, one of whom robbed him of £1. 5s., the servant at the same time striking the soldier and giving him a wound on the face, was knocked off horseback, and Mr. Easterby afterwards stabbed with a bayonet in different parts, but fortunately not mortally wounded, he having on a large surtout. The servant recovering, directly went to Sunderland and acquainted one of the officers, who made very active search at the soldiers' quarters to find who was absent, and after waiting for one some time, he came, and was directly taken with his face bleeding from the wound, and having behind him the waistcoat with which he had disguised himself, so that the officer, after interrogating him severely, brought him to a confession, and his accomplices were immediately taken, and all four confined. After undergoing a severe flogging, they were turned over to the civil power. Their names were John Slaid, George Forster, John Adams, and Thomas Croaker. Slaid and Adams received sentence of death, the others were reprieved. Slaid only was executed. He confessed the fact and died penitent, but declared he was led astray by his three companions.

1768 (*Sept.*)—The floor of a smith's shop on Elvet bridge, Durham, fell down just as the smith opened the door to enter it, and all his tools fell into the river; and next the whole fabric fell.

September 30.—At the finishing of the water corn-mill, near Alnwick, belonging to his grace the duke of Northumberland, and about to be tenanted by Mr. Cockburn, an elegant entertainment was provided for the engineer, to which the inhabitants of Alnwick were invited by the common crier. Among the great variety of dishes, there was an enormous *dumpling* of a globular figure, which measured eight feet in circumference, and contained sixty-eight pounds of wheat flour, forty-two pounds of currants, twenty-eight pounds of suet with other ingredients, and, when boiled, it weighed one hundred and forty-seven pounds. A table was provided at the mill-door, where it was served to a numerous and genteel company, amidst a vast concourse of people, who went to view the huge curiosity. Upwards of two hundred persons dined, and the day was concluded with drinking the health of the duke and duchess of Northumberland, and the noble house of Percy, with many loyal and appropriate toasts. The whole was conducted with such propriety, amidst the roar of guns and harmonious music, as to give it the appearance of an old English banquet.

October 18.—The remains of William Wilkinson, esq. were deposited in the chantry of the Holy Trinity, in St. Andrew's church, Newcastle. The body of Mr. Wilkinson was interred in the burial place of Sir Adamarus de Atholl, the large stone of which, it was supposed had not been removed since his death, as, upon opening his grave, only two skulls were found, and there appeared the flag-work in which the bodies of Sir Adam and his wife had been deposited about 400 years before. On the stone which had originally

been inlaid with brass, thus much of the inscription remained:—“*Hic jacent Dominus Adamarus de Atholl, Miles & D'na Maria, uxor ejus, quæ obiit Quarto decimo Die Mensis ——— Anno Domini Millesimo Tricentesimo ——— Animabus propitiatur.*” The following wood-cut represents this church, which is of very high antiquity. There is no account of its foundation, but mention is made of it so early as the year 1218.



1768 (*Oct. 31*).—Died, in the poor house at Sunderland, Margaret Callender, aged 107 years.

December 31.—Died, at Black Callerton, near Newcastle, Cicely Fenwick, aged 113 years. She retained all her faculties to the last.

The front and steeple of St. Nicholas' church, in the city of Durham, were chiselled over this year, and a large new window was put in at the east end. The corporate body go to this church every Sunday, where they have seats. It is a very ancient plain structure. In 1803 the exterior underwent a thorough repair.

This year, died, Thomas Holles Pelham, who was created marquis and duke of Newcastle upon Tyne, in the year 1715. These titles became extinct at his death.

About this year the Town-hall in the centre of the market-place at South Shields, was erected by the dean and chapter of Durham.

1769 (*Jan. 26*).—Died, at his house in Pilgrim-street, Newcastle, in the 81st year of his age, Mr. John White, printer. Mr. White was the oldest printer in England; he came to Newcastle in 1708, and was the first publisher of a newspaper north of the Trent, which he regularly continued under the title of the Newcastle Courant, from its commencement August 1st, 1711 (which see), to the time of his death: being a citizen of York, he was elected one of the sheriffs for that city in 1734, and executed the office with as great punctuality as the distance would admit. In 1688, his father, printed at York, the prince of Orange's manifesto, it having been refused by all the printers in England, and for which he was sent a prisoner to Hull castle, where he was confined till

the place surrendered. He was afterwards rewarded, by King William appointing him his majesty's sole printer for the city of York and the five northern counties, as appeared by his majesty's grant (in the possession of Mr. Saint, his partner and successor), dated at Hampton Court, May 26th, 1689. Mr. Saint continued the publication of the Newcastle Courant until his death, July 31st, 1788.

1769 (*March*).—Died, at Houghton-le-spring, Margaret Forster, aged 119 years. She retained her faculties to the last, and never made use of spectacles.

March 16.—Died, aged 66 years, Arthur Young, the noted *whistling duckle mender*, at the Head of the Side, Newcastle.

April 6.—St. John's chapel at Sunderland was opened, when the Rev. Mr. Coxon, vicar of that place, preached a sermon from Eccles. chap. v. and part of the 1st verse, "*Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God.*" Mr. Ebdon played on the organ, and the other gentlemen of the choir of Durham performed cathedral service, with occasional anthems. The chapel was elegantly finished after the design of John Thornhill, esq., who presented (with the approbation of the bishop of Durham) the Rev. Mr. Hall with the benefice, and on the following Sunday, April 9th, he preached a very suitable sermon from the 2d Book of Chron. chap. vi. verse 40. There were above 1,400 persons present. The chapel was consecrated by the lord bishop of Durham, on the 5th of October, the same year, by the name of St. John, which had been previously given to it. Late on Christmas eve, December 24th, 1770, a paper parcel, neatly packed, was delivered at the house of the Rev. Mr. Hall. It contained a silver chalice and paten of an elegant construction, with the following inscription beautifully engraven on each, "For the use of St. John's chapel, Sunderland," to which they were accordingly applied at the communion the next day. They were the gift of Mr. Thomas Thompson. The remainder of the communion plate was the gift of James Donnison, esq. *See Dec. 27th, 1764.*

April 12.—In the morning, Richard Twizell, pilot of Blyth, two of his sons, and a man named Short, being off at sea, at their great fishing lines, a sudden storm arose, which prevented them making the land, so that by hard labour, wet, and cold, they soon became exhausted. About 12 o'clock, Twizell's eldest son died, at 4 o'clock John Short, and at 6 in the evening Twizell's youngest son, who, a little before was casting out water, fell overboard, but his father catching his cloathes, got him again. The old man, a hardy seaman, remained in the boat all night, when, next day, he was descried near Hauxley by some fishermen, who brought him ashore, and sent him home on horseback, whilst the coble, with the dead bodies, was taken about to Blyth. Twizell was extremely ill, the skin being off his hands, his arms much swelled, &c. The spray had wet them so much that Short's clothes were obliged to be cut off, and the skin and flesh came off his back. When the first two died, Twizell proposed casting them overboard, but the young lad, who was about 13 years of age, cried and desired his father to keep

them. Twizell was about 50 years of age, and his eldest son 21, both of whom had served on board a man of war. Short was an industrious young man, who supported his parents.

1769 (*April*).—A block of solid silver, weighing 311lbs., and another of pure gold, weighing 18lbs., were shipped at Newcastle, both of which were produced from materials found in that neighbourhood, and manufactured at a refinery near that town.

May 10.—The south arch of Sunderland bridge fell down, and two men who were at work taking down the battlements narrowly escaped; one of them fell down, but catching hold of a large stone on the part that was standing, he hung till assistance was given to him. The north arch also was in so bad a condition, that it was rebuilt a few months after.

June 9.—St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, was undergoing very extensive repairs. It was opened again for divine service on Sunday, September 24th, the same year.

June 13.—The silver medal, gorget, and cup, were shot for at Darlington, by the gentlemen of the long bow. The medal was won by Mr. Ormsby, the gorget by the Rev. Mr. Bramwell, and the cup by Mr. Robert Hall.

July 5.—Died, in the keelmen's hospital, Newcastle, William Wood, a keelman, aged 113 years. His brother died about nine years before, aged 110 years.

August 1.—There were great rejoicings at Barnardcastle on account of Lord Barnard's birth-day, the only son of the right hon. the earl of Darlington. The serjeants of the militia distinguished themselves greatly on the occasion, and exhibited many curious fire works.

August 23.—The silver medal and gorget were shot for at Darlington by the gentlemen archers. The medal was won by the Rev. Mr. Nicholson, of Hurworth, the gorget by Thomas Pierse, esq. of the same place.

August 29.—Passed through Newcastle, for Capheaton, in Northumberland, Baron Dieden, the Danish ambassador, on a visit to Sir Edward Swinburne, bart. *September 7th.*—His excellency returned to Newcastle, and went to Tynemouth moor colliery, when he descended and viewed the subterraneous workings, which gave him great satisfaction, after which he set out for London.

September 27.—A fire broke out in a house at Eggleston, in the county of Durham, and before it could be extinguished, two houses adjoining were burnt to the ground. It was supposed to be the work of incendiaries.

October 24.—An alarming fire broke out in the flax warehouse of Mr. Allison, at Stockton, which blazed with such fury that in a short time the whole was consumed.

November.—Died, in Gallowgate, Newcastle, a butcher named Westgarth, aged 100 years.

December 12.—Died, in the Close, Newcastle, Mr. John Laws, wool-comber, aged upwards of 100 years. He was a soldier at the time of the Revolution in 1696.

1769 (*December 19*).—Died, at Staindrop, in the county of Durham, Elizabeth Carter, aged 103 years.

This year Crossgate-moor, near the city of Durham, was divided (200 acres). The dean and chapter reserved sixpence per acre and the mines.

1770 (*January 1*).—A pie was brought from Howick to Berwick to be shipped for London, for Sir Henry Grey, bart., the contents of which were as follows:—two bushels of flour, twenty pounds of butter, four geese, two turkeys, two rabbits, four wild ducks, two wood-cocks, six snipes, and four partridges, two neats' tongues, two curlious, seven blackbirds, and six pigeons. It was supposed to be a very great curiosity, was made by Mrs. Dorothy Patterson, housekeeper at Howick. It was near nine feet in circumference at the bottom, weighed about twelve stones, and would require two men to present it at the table; it was neatly fitted with a case and four small wheels to facilitate its use to every guest.

January 4.—The following curious advertisement appeared in a Newcastle newspaper of this date:—"This is to acquaint the PUBLIC THAT on Monday the 1st inst. being the Lodge (or Monthly Meeting) Night of the Free and Accepted Masons of the 22d Regiment, held at the Crown, near Newgate, Mrs. Bell the Landlady of the House broke open a Door (with a Poker) that had not been opened for some years past, by which Means she got into an adjacent Room, made two Holes through the Wall, and by that Stratagem discovered the Secrets of Masonry; and she knowing herself to be the first Woman in the World that ever found out that Secret, is willing to make it known to all her Sex. So any Lady that is desirous of learning the Secrets of Free Masonry, by applying to that well-learned Woman (Mrs. Bell that lived fifteen years in and about Newgate) may be instructed in all the Secrets of Masonry."

1770 (*Jan.*).—Died at Berwick, Mr. Palmer, a gunner, aged 108 years, who retained his senses to the last. He was so fond of angling that he attended the tide regularly throughout the year, and never experienced sickness.

January 31.—The first fair for horned cattle, sheep, and horses, was held at Stockton, when a very great number of each kind were exposed to sale. The fair was ordered to be held annually on the above day and the 9th of May.

February 12.—Died at Norton, near Stockton, Christopher Middleton, captain in the royal navy. He was sent by the government to discover a passage throughout Hudson's Straits, to the South Sea, and was greatly esteemed for his skill in maritime affairs. Captain Middleton's discoveries were, by designing men, made matters of great doubt in his life-time, but recent discoveries have proved them otherwise, when the satisfaction, which he ought to have had in his life-time, cannot now be conveyed to "the dull cold ear of death."

March 7.—On account of Lady Strathmore's coming of age, a great entertainment was given at his lordship's seat, at Gibside,

to a number of gentlemen in the two counties. An ox was roasted whole, which, with other victuals and some hogsheads of strong ale, &c., were given to the populace, many hundreds having assembled there to celebrate the day. The house was open for ten days to all persons who chose to repair thither to regale themselves. His lordship's agents gave a genteel entertainment in Newcastle, to the people employed in his service in that town and neighbourhood. Ringing of bells and other demonstrations of joy were likewise shewn on the occasion. This is the lady, who, seven years after, unfortunately married the notorious Andrew Robinson Stoney. *See Sept. 17th, 1760, and Jan. 16th, 1810.*

1770 (*March*).—Died, at Heighington, in the county of Durham, Margaret Todd, aged 104 years.

This month, in digging a cellar in Northumberland Street, Newcastle, a human skeleton was found about three feet from the surface of the earth. The bones were uncommonly large, the place had been a garden.

April.—A curious candle was made in Newcastle. It consisted of 44 branches, issuing in four circular divisions from the main stem, and forming four circles at the top, where they all terminated horizontally with each other, and would cast 45 lights. It weighed $22\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. From the bottom to the top of the main stem it was about three feet. It was intended to be lighted up at the Cappadocian entertainment in Newcastle, on the Wednesday in Easter week, being the day of Mr. Wilkes' enlargement. It was invented and executed by Mr. Kelly, of the Quay Side, at whose house the curious were allowed to see it until the above day.

April 18.—The friends to liberty in Newcastle, assembled at various inns and public houses to celebrate Mr. Wilkes' enlargement, where very elegant entertainments were provided, and many loyal and constitutional toasts were drunk, all which were conducted with the greatest order, decency, and decorum. A subscription was, at the same time, opened at Nelly's coffee-house, for the support of Mr. Wilkes, as the defender of the liberty of the subject, which met with all desirable success. The magistrates, being apprehensive that some outrages would be committed in the town that night, gave strict orders to the constables to be diligent in their respective wards, in order to quash any tumults and apprehend the offenders, and by orders from the same quarter, pad-locks were placed upon the bell lofts of the several churches to prevent the bells being rung. In the evening, the tragedy of Cato was performed by desire, when a great number of Mr. Wilkes' friends attended. Happily the civil officers did not find one irregular person. Among the many curious methods to celebrate this day, the following by the journeymen of Mr. Taylor Ansell, tobacco-pipe maker in Gateshead, may be considered worth relating:—They had a sheep, 45lbs. weight, roasted whole at the workshop fire, which was laid down at 45 minutes past six o'clock in the morning, when two sat down and turned it 45 minutes, and then were relieved by other two, who did the same &c. till 45 minutes past eleven,

when it was taken from the fire, and cut up by Mr. Ansell (who assisted all the time), and eaten on the shop bench, every man having brought his knife, fork, and trencher, with 45 large potatoes, 45 biscuits, and 45 quarts of ale, with great mirth and decorum. Many loyal healths were drunk. Some hundreds of people were spectators of the preparations and the feast. Mr. Ansell sent as a present to four different clubs, viz. :—The King's Head, Cappadocian, Mr. Cowling's and Mr. Byerley's, 45 pipes each, 45 inches long, tipped and glazed, and marked on the shank, "J. W. 45."

At Durham, on account of Mr. Wilkes' enlargement, the morning was ushered in with ringing of bells, which continued the whole day. In the evening an effigy was carried round the town on an ass, and afterwards burnt in a large fire in the market place, where 45 gallons of beer were given to the populace. On the breast of the effigy was printed in large capital letters, "I HAVE BETRAYED MY CONSTITUENTS;" on its back, "LANGUARD FORT." One hand held out "BRIBERY," and the other "LIBERTY." Most of the houses were illuminated, and a pole carried round the town with 45 candles upon it.

At Darlington, there were great rejoicings on the same occasion, the bells were rung all the day, and 45 pieces of cannon were fired off, and in the evening there were bon-fires and illuminations. An effigy was carried round the town, and afterwards committed to the flames.

At Alnwick, Sunderland, Shields, Morpeth, Hexham, and various other places, there were great rejoicings on the above occasion.

1770 (*May 10*).—Died, Mr. Charles Avison, organist of St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle. He had been upwards of thirty years an organist in that town, and was much admired for his skill in the profession, and for his excellent compositions. Mr. Avison was author of a work intituled "*An Essay on Musical Expression*." He had been a pupil of the celebrated Geminiani, who held his talents in high esteem, and when on his road from Edinburgh in December, 1760, paid Mr. Avison, whom he had not seen for many years, a visit. This venerable composer, then aged 88, was so much delighted with the performance of Mr. Avison's eldest son (13 years old), upon the harpsicord, that he took him to his arms with an earnestness which affected them both, then turning to his father, he said, "my friend, I love all your productions. You are my heir. This boy will be yours, take care of him. To raise up geniuses like him, is the only way to perpetuate music."

June 20.—The west end of St. Thomas' chapel, at the north end of Tyne Bridge, Newcastle, was pulled down, and after the angle was rounded off to widen the entrance to the town, it was rebuilt with brick in a motley manner. It was opened on Sunday, February 17th, 1782, having been curtailed a second time to widen this very contracted spot. It was newly chipped all over on this occasion, the steeple at the west end was taken down and a new one built, and a cross put up at the east end. In this state it remained

until the year 1830, when this old structure was entirely removed, and a range of shops, &c. built upon its site. As a substitute for this ancient building, an elegant new chapel is now being finished at the Barras Bridge, of which more hereafter.

1770 (*June 21*).—So universal was the sorrow on account of the death of William Beckford, esq., the patriotic lord-mayor of London, who died on the morning of this day, that several gentlemen in Newcastle went into mourning on the occasion.



June 23.—Died, at his house, New Burlington Street, London, of a fever, Mark Akenside, an eminent physician, and author of "*The Pleasures of Imagination*," &c. He was the son of a butcher, and born in the Butchers' Bank, Newcastle, on the 9th of November, O. S., 1721. On the 21st of November, N. S., 1821, being the centenary of Dr. Akenside's birth, a number of literary gentlemen and admirers of the poet, assembled at the house in which the poet first drew breath, and recited some effusions (in Akenside's manner) written for the occasion, in blank verse. They then adjourned to Mrs. Atkinson's, the George tavern, and sat down to an elegant entertainment. After dinner, and following "the King," the "immortal memory of Mark Akenside, M. D." was given and drunk with enthusiasm. Many appropriate toasts followed, and the day was spent with decorum and reverence suited to the occasion. The above cut shews the house wherein the poet was born, as it appeared 30 years ago. It has since that time been considerably altered, and does not now contain a butcher's shop.

1770 (*June 28*).—Sweethope Mill, near Hexham, was washed away by the heavy rains which had fallen in that neighbourhood.

July 10.—Part of a ship's bottom was weighed up in the river Tyne, near Bill Point, the keel of which measured upwards of 70 feet. It appeared quite fresh, the planks were 18 inches broad, caulked with hair, and overlapped each other. It was supposed to have been one of the ships sunk when the Spaniards attempted to invade England in 1588. They made several attempts to land, but Sir Francis Drake, Sir Walter Raleigh, and other eminent commanders, under Queen Elizabeth, baffled all their efforts; at length they were overtaken by a storm, which, from its violence, annihilated the greater part of this *formidable armada*. A rust-eaten anchor at present hanging in front of the Trinity-house, in the Broad Chare, is said to be the anchor which was attached to this wreck.

1770 (*July 15*).—The passage over Tyne Bridge, at Newcastle, was stopped on account of Bishop Trevor repairing an arch at the south end, which had formerly been used as a draw-bridge. Beams of timber had been laid across covered with planks and paved. The timbers having failed, it was now repaired with stone, and again opened to the public on the 19th of the same month. On this occasion boats were established at the east end of Hillgate, and the west end of Pipewellgate, for the convenience of passage.

July 17.—The silver gorget, medal, and cup, were shot for at Darlington by eight gentlemen archers, when the medal was won by Mr. Bramwell, of Hurworth, the gorget, by Mr. Robert Hall, of Darlington, and the cup, by Mr. Nicholson, of Hurworth.

July 20.—A piece of ground which had been added to the cemetery of Stockton church, was consecrated by Bishop Trevor.

July—The largest looking-glass that had ever been seen in England, was placed in the grand drawing-room at Alnwick Castle. The plate itself measured 9 feet 5 inches, it was made in France, and cost upwards of £1,000. At the same time was also put up a most beautiful and elegant chandelier of 18 branches.

August 5.—Mrs. Montagu, of Denton Hall, gave a dinner at her mansion, to upwards of eighty boys and girls who were educating at her expence, and at the same time made presents to such as had made the greatest progress in learning.

August 6.—About nine o'clock at night, as Miss Margaret Banson, sister to Mr. Banson, writing-master to the Free Grammar-school in Newcastle, was returning in a post-chaise from Durham, she was robbed of half-a-guinea on Gateshead Fell, by a single highwayman. When the highwayman attacked Miss Banson in the chaise, after ordering the driver to stop on pain of death, he presented a pistol and demanded her money, on which, the surprise getting the better of her fears, she altercationed with him, and told him she had none worth his while; that she had only been at Durham on business, and had but half-a-guinea and some half-pence left; he took the half guinea and returned the rest; he demanded a watch, and she had some difficulty to convince him she

had not one with her; he had a great tremor upon him all the while, was but badly mounted, and without boots or great coat. When Miss Banson had come forward about a mile, she met the postman carrying the mail from Newcastle to Durham, and advised him to return or take a guard, telling him he would certainly be robbed; but he would not be advised, he went on, and at the turnpike gate asked if he could have a pistol, but could not get one to his mind. A little after he left the gate he was joined by a man, as above described, whom he took to be a countryman going from market, and told him what had happened, that a highwayman was upon the road, &c. and that he could not get a pistol to defend himself. They rode on together about two miles, when his companion told him in a soft manner, he must have his bags, which the postman took at first only as a joke; he then presented a pistol, and obliged the postman to alight, take the mail off, and throw it on before him. After which, he ordered the postman to ride forward, declaring if he looked back, he would blow his brains out. The next day a person who called himself Robert Hazlitt, and said he was lately clerk to Mr. Samuel Bamford, of Philip Lane, London, was taken up in Newcastle, on suspicion of being the highwayman that committed the said robberies. He had a young woman along with him. Upon his examination, he confessed that he robbed the lady in the chaise, but declared that he had an accomplice who robbed the postman of the mail, and brought it to him in an adjoining quarry, where they opened it and divided the contents, after which he had not seen him. Many of the letters and bills that were in the mail were found in a chest, which he and the young woman said belonged to her. He was committed to Durham gaol. August 16th, the trial of Robert Hazlitt, otherwise William Hudson, for robbing the above lady, came on at Durham, and on the jury retiring for a few minutes, they returned, finding the prisoner guilty. After which he was arraigned and tried for robbing the Newcastle mail, and upon the clearest evidence he was likewise found guilty. When asked if he had any thing to say in his defence, he replied "he did not rob the mail, that it was an accomplice, one Hewitt, of London, who committed that robbery." Having impeached this person the week before, notice was sent to Sir John Fielding thereof, who got the man apprehended, but upon examination, it was found that he had not been from town at the time. The judge believed Hazlitt to be the same person who robbed his lordship, near London, in the preceding June. Hazlitt came down from London by sea only a day or two before, and had hired a horse at Shields, on which he committed the robberies. After his condemnation, he sent a £20. bank note, and a bill at sight of £12. or £14. to the judge, which he had secreted in his coat sleeve, and were all that were wanting of what had been in the mail: He also told them that the bags and letters were in a corn field, all of which were found there. September 18th, Hazlitt was executed near Durham, and after hanging about two hours and a-half, his body was cut down and carried from thence in a cart to a

gibbet 25 feet high, erected about three miles from Newcastle on the east side of the road, leading over Gatehead Fell to Durham, near the place where the robberies were committed, and there hung in chains. On coming out of gaol on the morning of his execution, he looked earnestly at the cart, and said, "this indeed is terrible! but as my life has been injurious, I hope that my death will be useful to mankind." Soon after he was hung in chains, a person advanced in years, was observed several days to go and kneel before the gibbet, where he remained a considerable time, regardless of the wet weather. The last day in particular he prostrated himself on his bare knees for upwards of an hour, and became so enfeebled that he could not rise till some people gave him assistance; after which he drew out of his pocket a hatband, and putting it on, said he then was easy, and took his leave of the melancholy spectacle before him. It was thought that this person was his father.

1770 (*Sept.*)—As some labourers were casting a level in Pelawbogs, near Chester-le-street, they found the bones of a human body about four feet below the surface of the ground. It was supposed to have been the body of some person who had been murdered.

October 17.—The first weekly market was held this day (*Wednesday*) at South Shields, to be holden there every *Wednesday*. The dean and chapter at the same time ordered that two fairs should be held annually. The first on the 24th of June 1771, and the second on the 1st of September, and on the same days in every succeeding year.

November 6.—A block, or plate of parting, extracted from sundry matters, was tested off at Mr. Cox's refinery at Bill Quay, on the river Tyne, which contained of fine gold and silver 667lbs. 10z. 15dwts., or 8,005oz. 15dwts. troy, or 1,000 merks 5oz. 15dwts. Its intrinsic value was £3,702. 13s. 4½d. Its solid thickness was 4½ inches exclusive of its rising or springing into imaginary devices from its fineness. Its length was 3 feet, breadth 2 feet 2 inches, and circumference 8 feet 2 inches. No plate of its magnitude, weight, or value, had ever before been tested in this kingdom, or as it was supposed, in any other part of the world. At the request of Mr. Cox's friends, it was exhibited previous to being sent off to London, at Mr. Pryor's (assay-master) workhouse in the Side, Newcastle, each person paying one shilling for the benefit of the Infirmary. This exhibition produced £8. 8s., which was paid into the hands of the treasurer of that charity, January 3d, 1771.

November 8.—There was a most violent storm of rain which swelled the rivers to an alarming degree. The river Wear at Sunderland bridge rose to the height of three stories in the house of Mr. Mitchell, innkeeper, which compelled the family to take to the upper stories. He had several swine which got upon a coal heap, where they stood most part of the day, but were at last taken away by the flood and lost. Several goats came down the river and were drowned, likewise a field of turnips near Shincliffe, valued at £100., and a field of corn at Wolsingham, valued at £150. were entirely destroyed. A boat plied for some time at the

foot of Elvet, in the city of Durham, in which place several cellars were overflowed and great damage done. The river Tyne rose 12 feet above neap tide. At Alnwick, the river rose to an unprecedented degree, so that part of the dam above bridge gave way, together with the foundations of the mills. One of the people employed in recovering what could be come at in the loft above them, saved himself by getting into a window in the gable when the mills fell down, this being the only part that stood, and if the water had not got passage, the houses adjoining must have been swept away. The other mills, called the new mills, had their dam heads carried away. The end of the bridge next to the town was considerably shrunk, owing to the bank having been so much washed away. December 15th part of the south arch fell into the river, leaving the others in a tottering condition. Many tall trees were rooted out by the strength of the current.

1770 (*Nov. 20*).—Died, in St. John's poor-house, Newcastle, Mary Batty, aged 105 years.

December—In sinking the floor of the cellar at Bamborough-castle, a curious draw-well was accidentally discovered. Its depth was 145 feet all cut through the solid rock, of which 75 feet was hard whinstone.

December 31.—Died, at his house in Gateshead, Mr. William Sedgewick, a gentleman well known in the chemical world, for his many valuable inventions, and particularly for that of dissolving the stone in the bladder.

This year, died at Great Bavington, in Northumberland, Mrs. Eleanor Lawson, widow, aged 105 years.

Died, at Newcastle, Francis Morris, aged 108 years.

The water reservoir on the Town-moor, Newcastle, was this year made, and one hundred fire plugs ordered to be placed, in the event of fire.

The chapel, at Eshe, in the county of Durham, was this year almost entirely rebuilt. It consists of a long narrow nave and chancel of equal height and breadth, and of a south porch which opens under a low pointed arch. This portion alone is perhaps part of the old chapel, and here, when Mr. Hutchinson wrote, lay a fine recumbent effigy in stone, supposed to belong to the family of De Eshe. This is now destroyed or removed.

This year, in digging for a cellar on Hide Hill, Berwick, the clay was found intimately mixed with quick-silver, a piece of it the size of an egg, produced a tea-spoon full. The place where it was found was much built upon, which prevented further search.

The burgher meeting-house, in Golden Square, Berwick, was this year built, but owing to the great increase of hearers, it was considerably enlarged in the year 1796.

A school for girls was about this year founded in Sunderland, in consequence of the bequest of a Mrs. Dennison.

At this time there was living at Sunderland, a man named Robert Haxby, a clock maker, who had a variety of curious clocks, which he frequently exhibited for a trifling sum, giving notice

himself, by beat of drum, of the time of the intended exhibitions. He was blind, and consequently his ingenuity was considered the more surprising. In 1750, he received a reward of ten guineas, for making the model of a machine, for removing ballast out of the river Wear. He is still recollected by some of the elders of Sunderland. He frequently presented petitions to the Commissioners of that river; amongst their loose papers, the following occurs:—“That your petitioner proposed to be engineer about thirty years agoe, and Mr. Winfield, he being chairman at the time, told you, that you would never get such another, think on him as littel as you please. I both maid an engin for you then, and at the same time I drew a plan for you, and nobody could say any thing against it; but in my way of thinking, it would have taken up three or fore keels in an hour by the purchase of fore horses—but Rob. Walker put them of that, as he said there was the same thing making at Newcastle,* and when they was done with it they would get it, but I never heard tell that it is maid yet. Now you have had fore or five Engineers, and all to no service, and the pier that you are building now, if you carry it East, or East and be South; it will fling such a tumbling sea in, if the storm come on betwixt Nouth and East, that no ships can ride in the harbour, besides the ballast and rubish that it will through in, which will chock the harbour up. Gentlemen, it is not only my judgment, but it is the opinion of the sea-faring men in general, and, Gentlemen, I have the plan now lying by me if you will be pleased to examine it, and look it over, for I don't pretend to medell no more concerning it.”

“I am, Gentlemen, your humb. servt. ROBERT HAXBY.”

1771 (*Jan. 26*).—The ancient market cross, which formerly stood at Hexham, in Northumberland, was removed down to Haydon-bridge, where, on the above day (Saturday), a market was held, when a great many necessaries for the relief of the poor were exposed to sale.

February.—Died at Hepple, near Rothbury, Mrs. Grizzle Ross, aged 100 years. She was a native of Scotland, born of noble parents, and had eloped from her husband about forty-five years before.

February.—As some men were digging in a quarry at Ayton, Banks, on Gateshead Fell, they found the skeleton of a man of very large size, about two feet from the surface of the earth. It appeared to have lain many years.

February 28.—Died, in his 78th year of his age, at Hinton, in Northamptonshire, the learned, ingenious, and Rev. Richard Grey, D. D., one of his majesty's justices of the peace for that county, archdeacon of Bedford, commissary of Leicester, prebendary of St. Paul's, rector of Hinton, and of Kimcote, in Leicestershire, chaplain to Lord Crewe, bishop of Durham, by whom he was presented to the living of Hinton, in 1718. Dr. Grey was born at Newcastle, the son of a Mr. Grey, barber; his mother's name was Lambert,

* This I suppose alludes to the machine mentioned in this volume, under the date of October 15, 1765.

the sister of Fenwick Lambert, who kept an inn in that town. He had one sister, who married Thomas Burdis, esq., counsellor-at-law, and another who married Mr. John White, an eminent printer at Newcastle.

1771 (*March 3*).—The impressed men on board of the *Boscon* cutter, lying at Shields, found an opportunity to overpower the watch on deck, and fifteen of them made their escape; the centinel in opposing them lost three of his fingers by the stroke of a cutlass, and an officer was desperately wounded in the head.

April.—Died, at Birdhope-crag, in the parish of Elsdon, Mrs. Margaret Gilroy, aged 106 years.

Mr. William Bell, painter, son of a bookbinder, in Newcastle, had the honour of receiving his majesty's premium of a gold medal, value £20., at the Royal Academy for the best historical picture. Mr. Bell went to London about the year 1768, and was among the first of those who entered as students in the Royal Academy; and when the gold medal was offered by the council for the best historical picture, he became a candidate, but the prize was obtained by Mr. Low. In 1771, he again became a candidate for the gold medal and obtained it, for the best historical picture, the subject, *Venus soliciting Vulcan to forge armour for her son Æneas*, but his success was owing to the following circumstance:—Mr. William Hamilton, a student, was also a candidate, but it was discovered that his picture had been touched upon by his master, Mr. Zucchi, for which reason Sir Joshua Reynolds, the president, very properly observed, that it could not be considered as the genuine work of Mr. Hamilton, and that Mr. Bell's picture as the next in merit, was therefore entitled to the prize. The medal, which weighed about four ounces, was most elegantly executed; on one side, the head of George III., inscribed "Georgius 3. D. G. Mag. Brit. Fr. & Hib. Rex.—T. Pingo. f." Reverse, Minerva directing a youth to the Temple of Fame. "Haud facilem esse viam volvit." Underneath, "R. Ac. instituted 1768." Engraved on the edge, "To Mr. William Bell, for the best historical picture, 1771." Mr. Bell was much patronized by Sir John Delaval, (afterwards Lord Delaval), and while he was in London, resided at his lordship's house; and in 1775, he exhibited two views of Seaton Delaval, his patron's seat in Northumberland. At Seaton Delaval were several whole length portraits of his lordship's family, which were painted by Mr. Bell. After he left his lordship, he resided at his native town, where he subsisted by painting portraits. He died about the year 1800, aged about 60 years.

May 5.—Died, at Crookham, in Northumberland, in a very advanced age, Mrs. Armstrong, sister to General Forster (who served in that capacity under the pretender in 1715), a lady of great knowledge and amazing activity and fortitude in her youth. When her brother was imprisoned at London, she was permitted to see him, and having a piece of clay in her pocket, took thereon the figure of the prison door key, with which she returned to Newcastle, and getting a key made by it, she went directly back, and opened the prison

door, got the general conveyed out, dressed in her own clothes. This anecdote, Mrs. Armstrong and her friends often acknowledged as a real fact. See *October 10th, 1715, page 136.*



1771 (*June*).—The statue of King Charles II., which had stood for some ages over the Magazine Gate, at the north end of Tyne Bridge, Newcastle, having been taken down (the gate being also taken away to render the entrance into the town more open), was, on this day, re-exalted, and placed in a niche made on purpose in the front of the Exchange facing the Sandhill. This circumstance so irritated an inveterate enemy to the Stuart race, and fiery zealot of the house of Brunswick, that, on the 18th, a most ill natured Pasquinade* was found posted upon a door immediately under the statue. When the Exchange had its north front modernized, this statue was taken down, and now stands at the

foot of the stairs leading to the Guildhall. This fine statue, which is in Roman costume, was, on the restoration of Charles II., placed over the south front of the Magazine Gate with this motto, "*Adventus Regis solamen Gregis,*" i. e. "The coming of the king is the comfort of his people."

July 8.—In the evening a fire broke out at Lintzgarth, in the parish of Stanhope, which, in a short time, reduced to ashes several dwelling-houses and out-houses belonging to Sir Walter Blackett, bart., and Mr. Hutchinson, the wind being high little or nothing could be saved of the tenants' furniture.

Same day, the keelmen, on the river Tyne, after a stop of some weeks went to work again; to effect which, Mr. Alderman Mosley exerted himself in a very praise-worthy manner, by going down the water himself in different keels, time after time, till he got them all to work, none of them attempting to insult him, though the standers out would not suffer the keels to pass with such of their men as were willing to work, till Mr. M. went down with them. The grievance the keelmen complained of was the erection of some new staiths near Shields, the owners thereby saving the keel dues.

July 10.—The new theatre, in the city of Durham, was opened with "*The West Indian,*" and other entertainments, to a very genteel audience, who expressed the greatest satisfaction at the elegance of the house, and of the performance in general.

* Written by John Rotheram, M. D., of Newcastle. The Pasquinade and Reply may be had of John Sykes.

1771 (*July 15*).—Upwards of 4,000 salmon were exposed to sale in Newcastle fish-market, which sold for about a penny farthing per pound, 107 salmon were caught that morning at one fishery above Tyne bridge.

July 20.—Christian Horsley, who had been convicted at the quarter sessions in Newcastle, of obtaining goods on false pretences, stood this day from 12 o'clock to one o'clock *exalted* on a pillory on the Sandhill. At the quarter sessions held at Alnwick, in the following October, this woman received sentence of transportation for defrauding Miss Pye, a milliner at Morpeth, of goods of the value of £3.

July 21.—Notice was given that there would be no service in St Nicholas' church, Newcastle, on this day (Sunday), as a part of the west end had been taken down, and it was rebuilding.

July 29.—A very unfortunate affair happened at Alnwick, during the fair. Mr. James, an attorney of Morpeth, having been in company where he had drank too freely, took it into his head to go out amongst the crowd, and buy some ginger-bread, &c., a constable, named Bolam, who had been placed to keep order, thinking that he made too free with the people, reprimanded him for it, whereupon Mr. James stabbed him in the breast with the knife he had in his hand cutting the ginger-bread. The man stood a few minutes, then dropped, and after languishing about an hour, he died. Coroner's verdict, *wifful murder*, and in consequence Mr. James was committed to Morpeth gaol. Another account says, Mr. James was distributing ginger-bread, and had taken a knife out of his pocket to cut it with, but the person whose ginger-bread he was giving away, not knowing Mr. James, had words with him, and called for a constable, when Bolam came to him who suffered as above. At the assizes in 1772, Mr. James was acquitted of the murder, but found guilty of manslaughter.

August 7.—Died in London suddenly, in the 48th year of his age, Sir Francis Blake Delaval, K. B. August 21st, his remains arrived at Newcastle in grand funeral solemnity, and were laid in state that evening at Mr. Nelson's. Sir Francis' passion for public liberty after the violation of the Middlesex election, had endeared him so much to the inhabitants of Newcastle, that they crowded in such numbers to witness the body lying in state, surrounded with banners, escutcheons, &c., that a girl had her leg broken, a gentleman lost his watch, many people had their pockets picked, their clothes torn off, and were otherwise much injured. The remains next day proceeded on their route to Seaton Delaval, to be interred in the family vault.

August 18.—As a servant of Sir John Hussey Delaval, bart., was coming to Newcastle from Seaton Delaval, his horse took fright at the Barras Bridge, and running along Sandyford-stone Lane, on coming to the bridge some people attempting to stop him, he sprang directly over the battlement, which was upwards of forty feet to the bottom; in the fall the man lost his seat, but luckily alighting between two very large stones that lay near each other,

the horse falling directly over him, so that the stones prevented him receiving any injury from the horse. The servant though much bruised, was able to ride home the same evening, the horse was afterwards shot, being so much injured, that there were no hopes of his recovery. *For other accidents at this bridge, see September 20, 1759, and December 5, 1827.*

1771 (*Aug. 22*).—His royal highness the duke of Cumberland and attendants arrived at Alnwick castle, where, as he entered the castle gates, he was saluted with 21 guns, and every other mark of respect. On Sunday, the 25th, his royal highness, accompanied by their graces the duke and duchess of Northumberland, Earl Percy, and Lord Algernon Percy, attended divine service at Alnwick church, where an excellent sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Percy. On their return to the castle, his royal highness received the compliments of the mayor and corporation of Newcastle, attended by their members, Sir Walter Blackett, bart., and Matthew Ridley, esq., and of the mayor and corporation of Berwick, attended by their representative, Sir John Hussey Delaval, bart., who, together with their respective recorders, town clerks, &c., were presented to his royal highness, and had the honour of kissing his hand, as had many other gentlemen of the county, attended by Thomas Charles Bigge, esq., high-sheriff of Northumberland. They afterwards all dined at a grand entertainment, given by the duke and duchess of Northumberland, where the number of dishes served up was 177, exclusive of the dessert. In short, the magnificence and hospitality displayed, gave a striking picture of the state and splendour of our ancient barons. On the 27th, his royal highness arrived at Berwick, in consequence of an invitation from the mayor and corporation of that town. He was attended by their graces, the duke and duchess of Northumberland, Earl Percy, Lord Algernon Percy, Sir John Hussey Delaval, and several of the principal gentlemen of Northumberland, whose equipages and cavalcade extended half a mile. When his royal highness reached Berwick bridge, 21 guns were fired, and all the military honours due to a prince were paid to him. He entered the town amidst the acclamations of many thousands of people of all ranks; all the windows in the streets through which his royal highness had to pass were also full, who manifested their loyalty on this occasion. When his royal highness alighted from his carriage, the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses, presented him with a most loyal and dutiful address, they also begged his royal highness to accept of the freedom of the corporation, to which he made a most gracious reply. After his royal highness had been entertained at dinner by the mayor and corporation, he went to a very elegant assembly which was given by the duke and duchess of Northumberland.* When the ball was over, 300 ladies and gentlemen had the honour of supping with his royal highness, at an entertainment consisting

* His royal highness chose for his partner, the then celebrated beauty, *Miss Johnson, of Hillon.*

of 240 dishes, given by the duke of Northumberland. Every window in the town was illuminated. The next morning his royal highness returned to Alnwick, and, accompanied by Sir John Hussey Delaval and Colonel Deacon, groom of his bed-chamber, passed through Morpeth to Seaton Delaval. On the 30th, his royal highness favoured Newcastle with his company, where public honours were paid him. Twenty-one guns were fired on his entrance, at Newgate,* where the soldiers were drawn up, and also on the Sandhill, the bells were rung, and at the Mansion-house, the right worshipful the mayor, the aldermen, &c., with the regalia, received their royal guest, where he was presented with the freedom of the corporation in a gold box. A most sumptuous dinner was provided, and the company invited was numerous and genteel. His royal highness by his deportment excited the admiration and captivated the affections of every person who approached him. In the evening there was a grand assembly,† the company and splendour of which exceeded every thing before seen in that town. On Saturday, the 31st, at noon, his royal highness returned to Seaton Delaval, from whence, on the Monday, he passed through Newcastle for London. Whilst in Newcastle, his royal highness presented the prisoners in Newgate with ten guineas.

1771 (*Sept. 12*).—General Paoli, and his excellency the Polish ambassador, dined with his grace the duke of Northumberland, at Alnwick Castle, and on the 15th, he arrived at Newcastle, and though he viewed several parts of the town, went to Tynemouth, and visited the colliery at Shiremoor, very few people had the pleasure of seeing that renowned general, so careful was he to conceal himself.

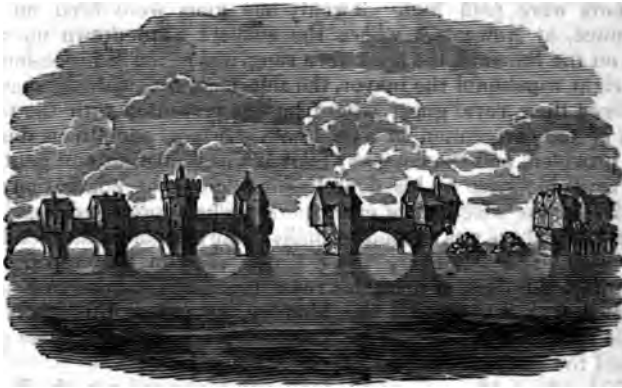
October 21.—Died, after a lingering illness, in the 76th year of his age, the Rev. Mr. Edward Aitkin, who had been minister to the congregation of Protestant Dissenters, in the Castle Garth, Newcastle, thirty-nine years. He founded the first charity-school amongst dissenters in that town, which, under his care and protection, was a relief to many poor families, and of great public benefit.

November 17.—About two o'clock on the morning of this day (Sunday), the inhabitants of Newcastle were alarmed with the most dreadful inundation that ever befel that part of the country, the water in the Tyne rising six feet higher than the remarkable fresh in December, 1763. The first appearance of day discovered a scene of horror and devastation, too dreadful for words to express, or humanity to behold without shuddering. All the cellars, warehouses, shops, and lower apartments of the dwelling houses, from the west end of the Close, to near Ouseburn, were totally under water. The flood was so rapid and sudden, that it was with the

* One of the cannons burst in firing, by which William Reed, a sailor, confined for being concerned in a riot, lost his life, and a man next him was much hurt.

† The ball was opened by his royal highness and Mrs. Mayoress (Aubone Surtees, esq., being then mayor); he also danced with Miss Surtees, Miss Allgood, Miss Carr, &c. &c.

greatest difficulty the inhabitants, who slept in the lower parts of the houses, escaped with their lives. The middle arch of Tyne bridge, and two other arches near to Gateshead, were carried away and seven houses with shops standing thereon, together with some of the inhabitants, overwhelmed in immediate destruction.



Mr. Fiddes, who lived on the north end of the bridge, with his wife and maid-servant, having made their escape to Gateshead, the girl, recollecting a bundle which she left behind, begged her master she might go back for it, and that he would be so kind as to accompany her; which request, after some reluctance, he complied with, and his wife stood watching their return; but in a moment after their separation, the arch under them gave way, when they vanished from her view, and she never saw them more. Mr. Fiddes and his maid, Ann Tinkler,* Mr. Christopher Byerley† and his son, together with an apprentice to Mr. James, were the persons who perished by the falling of these arches, and the houses and shops which fell into the river that morning were occupied by Mr. Paten, mercer; Mr. W. Hills, shoemaker; Mr. Byerley, hardwareman; Mrs. Haswell, milliner; Ann Tinkler, dealer in stuffs and checks; Mr. Edward Wilson, and John Sharp, shoemakers; Mr. Walton, flax-merchant; and Mr. John James, cheesemonger. Four other houses with shops likewise fell from the bridge the next day into the river, two of which belonged to Mr. Akenhead, and the

The above cut is copied from a print drawn and engraved by the late Mr. Ralph Beilby. The view is from the west, and was done while the ruins were standing. There is another view of the bridge from the east, engraved by John Hibbert, in 1739, and dedicated to Cuthbert Fenwick, esq., the then mayor of Newcastle. This, which shews it in its perfect state, is very scarce. The arches of this bridge were some of them gothic and others scheme arches. They had no regular decrease from the middle to the ends, and the passage over them was very narrow, and crowded with houses, built of wood.

* Ann Tinkler's body was not found until July, 1772.

† May 6th, 1772, Mr. Byerley's body was taken up out of the ruins of Tyne Bridge, and next day interred in Gateshead church.

others to Mr. Fawcett; and, in a little time after, the whole range of buildings, from near the blue stone on the bridge (the boundary between Newcastle and Durham), into Gateshead, met with the same fate. Mr. Patten's house was carried* wholly as far as Jarrow Slake, about eight miles down the river, where it was stopped, but upon examining the inside, nothing was left in it but a dog and a cat, both alive. The very remarkable preservation of Mr. Peter Weatherley,† a shoe-maker, with his family, who lived upon the bridge at the time the arches fell down, ought to be particularly noticed. Between three and four o'clock that morning, he was suddenly awakened by the prodigious noise of the flood, and on opening a window, observed Mr. and Mrs. Fiddes, two children, and their maid, passing along the bridge; on shutting the window again, he was about repairing to rest, when, all on a sudden, the arch immediately adjoining his house on the north side rushed down. This instantly drew his attention to the family's safety, and, raising them up, he opened the door, when he beheld the destructive torrent rolling almost immediately beneath him. He then, with difficulty, quitted the house, and at the utmost hazard of his life (the pavement breaking and tumbling beneath his feet into the water), assisted his wife, two young children, and a servant girl to follow him. As all access to the north was cut off by the falling of the above arch, they immediately hastened to the south end, but had not gone far until they perceived themselves involved in still greater misery and danger, two other arches having likewise fallen at that part. In this distressful situation they remained from four till ten o'clock in the morning, perishing with cold, and affording a most melancholy spectacle to the inhabitants on each side of the water. Their station was upon a surface about six feet square, all other parts of the arch which supported them appeared terribly rent, and threatened each moment to bury them in the flood. None durst attempt to relieve them by boats, and no other human means seemed possible. However, a bricklayer, in Gateshead, named GEORGE WOODWARD,‡ concerted a measure for their deliverance, and boldly ventured alone to execute it. A range of shops then standing on the east side of the bridge, supported only by timber, laid from pier to pier, and extending from Gateshead to the place where the distressed people stood, afforded him the means of preserving their lives. He broke a large hole through the side of every shop all the way to the arch where they were, and through these openings brought the whole family safe into Gateshead. The children when rescued were nearly exhausted with cold. The water was supposed to be at its height about seven

* Dec. 14, 1771, died, Mrs. Mabane, wife of Mr. Mabane, and also the maid servant of Mr. Patten, both tradesmen on Tyne Bridge, occasioned by the fright they received during the flood, from which they never recovered.

† Mr. Weatherley died at his house, in the White Hart yard, Old Flesh Market, January 12th, 1826.

‡ This heroic fellow's name was never given, with an account of this flood, until the publication of the first edition of this work in 1824.

o'clock in the morning, and to have risen upwards of twelve feet above high water-mark in spring tides. The Sandhill was a capacious flood; and boats plied thereon some hours. In some parts it was six feet deep. All the timber, merchants' goods, &c., lying upon the Quay, and on the several shores in the neighbourhood, were entirely swept away in the current, as were most of the ships lying at the Quay, and a number of keels, boats, and other small craft, both above and below bridge, carried down the rapid current, and scattered and stranded on each side of the river to Shields, or otherwise borne onward to the sea, and there sunk or wrecked along the coast. Three sloops and a brig were driven upon the Quay, and left there, when the flood abated; they furrowed up the pavement and broke down a great part of the Quay. But Newcastle did not alone suffer by the terrible violence of this flood, scarcely a village or cottage house from Tynehead in Alstonmoor, to Shields, escaped its destructive fury. The bridges at Alston, Ridley-hall, Haydon, Chollerford, and Hexham, were all carried away by the torrent, many people were drowned; a prodigious quantity of horses, black cattle, sheep, and other animals, perished. The wooden-bridge at Allendale was swept away entire and was discovered the next day lying across a lane near Newbrough, as exactly as if fixed there by human means.

At Haydon Bridge it overflowed the whole town, which obliged the men, with women and children on their backs, to wade almost up to their necks to the church where they found sanctuary; when their necessities were kindly attended to by the Rev. Mr. Harrison.

Several houses and estates suffered considerably in the neighbourhood of Hexham, though happily no lives were lost there. A man at the West Boat saved himself and family by breaking through the thatch of his house, on the top of which they were obliged to continue many hours in a half naked condition. The estates of Mr. Dunn, with his corn stacks, suffered greatly; and in a part of the Spital, belonging to Mr. Westall, a large square stone was discovered, seemingly the base of a pedestal or cross. The farms of Mr. Robert Bell and Mr. Harbottle, with their cattle, were much destroyed, as were some other grounds belonging to Sir Walter Blackett; the water-course to the mills was entirely diverted. The beautiful bridge at Hexham, consisting of seven arches, and which had only been finished the year before with great rejoicings, was totally demolished during the night. An inscription on a stone near Warden, informs the passenger, that the water rose 13 feet above its level at that place.

The only bridge upon the river Tyne which was left standing, was that at Corbridge, which was built in 1674, on the old Roman foundation. The water at this place was so tremendous, that some persons late in the night stood upon the bridge and washed their hands in the rolling river. The preservation of this bridge was attributed to its Roman foundation, and a vast quantity of water having passed it at its south end which is low ground.

The inhabitants of Bywell were amongst the most unhappy sufferers in this melancholy catastrophe. The whole village was under water; and in the dining room, and other rooms on the first floor of Mr. Fenwick's house, it was eight feet deep. The farmers there lost all their corn and hay stacks, cows, &c. All the garden walls belonging to Mr. Fenwick, were broken down and the gardens entirely destroyed. A delay of five minutes would have effected destruction to his whole stud, together with four servants. Most of the valuable stud of horses were got into the inside of the Black church, and saved themselves by holding by the tops of the pews, which were allowed to continue in their gnawed state for several years after the flood; a mare belonging to Mr. Elliott, father-in-law to Mr. Thomas Bewick, who was on a visit to Bywell at the time, was saved in the same church by getting upon the altar table. About ten houses were swept away, and six persons perished. Several lives were saved miraculously by twigs, ropes, trees, &c., and many people were taken out of their houses through the roofs. The shrieks of women and of children frantic with all the agonies of despair, will better be conceived than described. The White church-yard wall was entirely destroyed, and a great part of the church-yard washed away. The Black church walls were likewise very much ruined, and the parish accounts destroyed. Dead bodies and coffins were torn out of the church-yard, and the living and the dead promiscuously clashed in the torrent.

The tragical fate of the persons in the boat-house, at Ovingham, was truly heart-rending. When the water entered the house, there were ten people in it, John Johnson the boat-man, his wife and two children, his mother, and his brother, his man and maid-servants, with a young man from Prudhoe, and a labouring man named George Simpson; on their perceiving the danger they were in, they all went up stairs, and as the water advanced they ascended nearer the roof of the house, till at last they were obliged to break through the wall into the stable that was built at the end of the dwelling-house, thinking it a place of greater safety, both by its strength and situation, and made themselves a temporary place to sit on, by putting a deal and a ladder betwixt the binding balks, and there remained till one o'clock in the morning. At which time, perceiving the dwelling-house gone, and the stable beginning to give way, they got upon the top of the stable, when three of them climbed up to the chimney top, viz. George Simpson, the young man from Prudhoe, and the boatman's brother; and the boatman, his wife, mother, and two children, and the man and maid servants remained as before; when, in an instant, the building fell, and they were all swept away by the torrent, and carried down with the thatch, &c., for near 300 yards into a wood, where the boatman, his brother, and maid servant, got upon trees, and continued in that situation ten hours before they could be relieved, and the maid died soon after she got to land. The unhappy husband, when he seized the tree with one hand, caught his wife with the other, and, after holding her a few minutes, she was wrested from him in fifteen feet depth

of water, and in the midst of a rapid current. The wretched husband and his brother were the only survivors left out of the ten persons to relate the sad catastrophe.

The whole workings of Wylam colliery, containing 300 acres, were completed inundated. There were 1,728,000 hogsheads of water in the several seams of coal.

At Team, near Swalwell, people were taken out of the tops of their houses; a boat was driven against a house almost under water, of which the people immediately laid hold, and thereby saved the whole family, and some others who would have certainly perished; and in another, an old man and his wife were found hanging by the spars of the roof, the water being so high.

By the violence of the flood, several ships were driven from their moorings at Shields upon the Herd Sand, some of which were lost. A boy belonging to one of these ships continued alone upon the main-top-mast-head from Sunday morning to Monday morning, none daring to venture sooner to his assistance, when he was taken off alive. A woman with a child in her arms was found drowned on Jarrow Slake; and a vessel took up at sea, near Shields, a wooden cradle, with a child in it, which was alive and well.

The flood in the river Wear, was nearly as violent as that in the river Tyne; Frosterley, Wolsingham, and Witton bridges, were all destroyed. The water at Durham was eight feet ten inches higher than ever known before; two houses at the end of Framwellgate bridge, with all the furniture, were entirely swept away; one of the Abbey mills, and the bridge belonging to the dean and chapter were carried away, as were four arches of Elvet bridge, and all the lower buildings of the city, garden walls, &c., either destroyed or left in a ruinous condition. Mrs. Morgan's house, and Mr. Wilkinson's coach-house, both in Elvet, were driven down by the water, but the houses behind prevented them being carried off. Many other houses were greatly damaged; several horses, cows, &c., were drowned in the stables, byers, &c. Happily no lives were lost there, though a young woman fell into the water, by the bank giving way, and was carried 700 yards down the river, yet was saved by the assistance of her fellow servant. Two of Mr. Carr's servants of Cocken perished in crossing the river at Cockenford.*

The water at Chester-le-street extended near 200 yards from north to south in the street, and did considerable damage to the dwelling-houses and shops there. The mill, with most of the mill-houses and furniture, belonging to John Etherington, near Cocken, were carried away; as were also all the corn stacks belonging to Mr. Mowbray, at Newbrough, the fishing-lodge, and most of the furniture at Lumley boat-house. The collieries at North Biddick, Chaters-haugh, and Low Lambton, on the Wear, were all filled with water, and upwards of thirty horses in the several workings drowned. Several waggons, with houses, and a great quantity of

* The body of one of these, named Jeremiah Jackson, was found in the Wear at Chaters'-haugh, January 15th, 1772.

coals were swept off; and the fire engines belonging to the two former collieries entirely destroyed. All the low grounds from Chester to Cocken were covered with the dead carcasses of horses, cows, oxen, and sheep, and also with corn and hay stacks, household furniture, and wood of all kinds.

At Sunderland, there was a great destruction among the ships and keels. The cries of the poor boys (few of the men being on board), with the cracking of the ships, was indeed terrible. All the assistance possible was sent by the inhabitants; but the darkness and wetness of the night prevented many from receiving proper help. A great number of keels were driven away, and many men and boys were lost. A part of the pier gave way to the force of the water, and another part was damaged by the ships that drove against it. Eight or nine dead bodies were cast ashore on the Sunday morning in the harbour. Hay stacks and great quantities of household furniture, with a staith, were driven down the Wear into the sea. Thirty-four ships were wrecked at the mouth of the Wear.

At Stockton, the flood in the river Tees was greater than had ever before been remembered, though not much damage was done, only one warehouse and two or three cellars were under water.

At Barnard-castle, the Tees was so high that the arch on the Yorkshire side of the bridge not being large enough to contain so great a quantity of water, the battlement was forced down, and the water took its course along the street, drove away the causeway, washed away the soil down to the rock and demolished eight dwelling houses, so that not one stone was left upon another. The ground was so swept away that the end of the bridge was at least four yards higher than the rock, so that persons going into Yorkshire were obliged to go down a ladder. The water penetrated the cellars occupied by a dyer, who had a few pieces of tammies in the kettle at the time receiving their last process, when the dyer was obliged to make a precipitate retreat. After the torrent had subsided, the man, in great anxiety for his goods, visited the kettle, when, removing the sand and mud at the top, they were found to have attained a colour beyond his most sanguine expectations. The articles were sent to the London market, and gave such satisfaction, that orders were forwarded for a further supply of the same shade, but the dyer, not being again assisted by the genius of the river, failed in every attempt to produce it.

At Yarm, there were fifteen feet water in the streets. Many people were taken from the tops of houses by means of boats, one in particular, a woman, named Ann Richardson, with a child in her arms, had sat fifteen hours on the top of a house, almost starved to death before she was rescued. Great damage was done at Croft and Darlington. The Force, a waterfall on the river Tees, 69 feet high, was, during this flood, most awfully sublime.

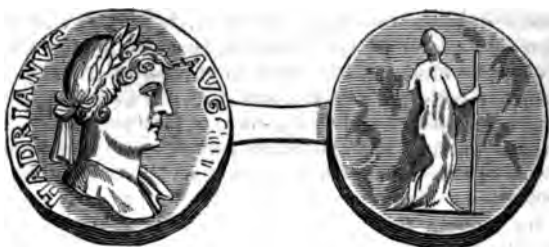
1771 (*Nov. 29*).—There was another fall of the bridge at Newcastle, at the south end, and with it went a house and shop belonging to a person named Laybourn, a glover; the next day

another fall took place, which brought down six dwelling-houses and shops. The whole range of shops and houses on both sides from the south end of the bridge to the blue stone, the boundary of the county of Durham, was now entirely demolished.

1771 (*Dec 15*).—Died, at Lanchester, in the county of Durham, Alice Browell, aged 109 years.

This year, in a large *cairn*, on Turpin's-hill, near Whitcheater, a stone-chest was found inclosing a small quantity of ashes and burnt bones. In 1795. another of these chests was found in the same *cairn*, it contained two urns and copper coins of Domitian, Antoninus Pius, and Faustina, which were in the possession of Mr. Spearman, of Eachwick-hall. In making a road through an old camp, near this place, several hand mill-stones, a sacrificing knife, and a flint axe, similar to the *Pattoo* of the South Sea islands, were discovered. These were also in the possession of Mr. Spearman.

1772.—A temporary post-office (as it was originally intended to have been), was set up at Gateshead, till Tyne Bridge could be re-built, but it was afterwards thought expedient to suffer this office to be continued.



January 17.—As the workmen were clearing away the rubbish of Tyne Bridge, the stones were so cemented, that they were obliged to be separated by mall and hammer, and on separating two stones, they discovered a parchment, with old characters on it very fresh; but on being exposed to the air, the characters disappeared, and the parchment mouldered away. This bridge had been built upon the old Roman foundation, as appeared by several coins and medals of Trajan and other emperors, being discovered in the ruins of the old piers. The above is a representation of a coin of the Emperor Hadrian, found in the ruins.

March 10.—Died, at North Shields, Elizabeth Potts, aged 104 years.

May.—Died, near Backworth; in the parish of Earsdon, Mary Metcalfe, aged 108 years.

June 10.—Mr. John Stephenson, carpenter, father of the late Mr. David Stephenson, architect, contracted to build a temporary bridge over the Tyne, at Newcastle, in four months, under a great penalty. July 16th, the workmen began to drive the piles, and on

October 27th, it was opened, on which occasion the workmen made a procession through the town, preceded by music and colours flying, after which they had an entertainment.

1772 (*June 21*).—At noon, there was a most terrible shower of rain and hail, accompanied with thunder and lightning, in Newcastle and its neighbourhood. Chimney-mill, on the south edge of the Town-moor, was struck by the lightning, and one of its wands shattered to pieces. A house near the head of south Tyne, was set on fire by the lightning. A fine young quoy was struck dead in a field near Morpeth.

August 15.—In the evening of this day, Christopher Wilkinson, esq., sheriff of Newcastle, in the mayor's barge, attended by several gentlemen in the river jury barge, went and received the judges on the south shore, and landed them on the Quay, opposite the Exchange (it then had a door on the south front), which they walked through, and were received at the foot of the court stairs, by the right worshipful Sir Walter Blackett, bart., mayor, and the magistrates, preceded by the regalia into the court, where they opened their commission. On their return out of court, they were received by the high-sheriff of Northumberland, and conducted in his coach to the Moot-hall.

August 17.—The foundation stone of the new bridge over the river Wear, at Durham, belonging to the dean and chapter, was laid. The free and accepted masons went in procession from their lodge to the place appointed for the stone to be laid, where they were met by the honourable and Rev. Spencer Cowper, D. D., dean of Durham, with some of the prebends, and several other gentlemen, when the stone was laid in due form, and a plate with an inscription, deposited under it, after which, the brethren proceeded to the meeting, where they heard an excellent sermon preached by the Rev. Mr. Hart, from Micah vi., 8. The bridge was built from the designs of Mr. George Nicholson, architect to the dean and chapter. April the 11th, 1778.—This bridge was opened to the public. It is a commodious structure, the old bridge swept away by the flood in the preceding November, was only for horse and foot passengers.

September 5.—Arrived in Newcastle, on his way to London, and next day was suddenly taken ill, and died in a few hours, the right hon. Henry Lord Borthwick. On the 9th, his remains were interred in a private manner in St. Nicholas' church, in that town. Leaving no issue the title became extinct.

September 10.—The centres were taken out of the arches of the new bridge built over the river Wear, at Wolsingham.

September 12.—The foundation stone of a new bridge over the Tyne, at Chollerford, was laid.

October 15.—A dreadful fire broke out in Michael Scrogg's warehouse, at Russell's factory, near Newcastle, which in a very short time destroyed the whole, together with a large quantity of paints, and all the utensils for preparing the same. He was a great sufferer by the dreadful inundation in the preceding November.

1772.—A charity school was this year founded in South Shields, by the application of £100. bequeathed by Mr. Christopher Mzughan, £100. by Mrs. Ann Aubon, of South Shields, and other benefactors. Forty scholars were taught reading, writing, and arithmetic, but the funds having been increased by various liberal donations, a good school house has been built, and the original number of scholars augmented.

This year, Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., decorated the chancel windows of Stanington church, (which are of the true Gothic taste,) with some curious painted glass finely coloured, of various scriptural designs, and arms of religious houses, and supposed to be above five hundred years old.

Elvet moor, near the city of Durham, was this year, divided (400 acres). The dean and chapter reserving sixpence an acre rent, and the mines.

1773 (*Jan. 2*).—Died at Morpeth, aged 100 years, Mrs. Grace Milbourne, who kept the Nag's Head inn, there.

January 15.—Died at his house in Westgate Street, Newcastle, in the 79th year of his age, Adam Askew, esq., one of the most eminent physicians in the kingdom. On the 19th (Tuesday), his remains were deposited in the family vault in St. John's church, with great solemnity; the pall being supported by Sir Walter Blackett, bart., Matthew Ridley, Christopher Fawcett, Ralph William Grey, Matthew Waters, Edward Collingwood, Gawen Aynsley, and Charles Thomas Bigge, esqrs. By his practice for fifty years in Newcastle, he had acquired an immense fortune, which descended to his son.—*See April 27th, 1774.*

This month, died, as his friends thought, Mr. Davison, of Earsdon, and lay as a corpse two days, the funeral being put off until the third day, in consequence of the absence of a relation; in this interval, Mr. Davison revived, and in a few days was quite well.

January 17.—Died at Lanternside, near Rothbury, William Potts, in the 107th year of his age.

January.—During a high wind, the church at Bedlington, which had been newly covered, was entirely unroofed, as were several houses, and many chimnies blown down.

February 7.—Died at Sunderland, Mrs. Wilson, aged 104 years, and who was said to be the oldest person in that place.

February 11.—Some workmen being employed to enlarge the gaol at Durham, in altering the top of the building for that purpose, the portcullis of the gateway, (which was supposed to have been up for above a century,) unexpectedly rushed down, and stopped the communication between Bailey-gate and Sadler street, till the workmen with saws and axes, cut it in pieces.

This month, Shields harbour was blocked up by a ridge of sand, so that large ships could not get out to sea.

February 24.—A fire broke out in a large new house built by Mr. William Watson, coal-fitter, adjoining the custom-house, in Sunderland, which burnt with such rapidity, that the building with all the household furniture was soon reduced to ashes.

1773 (*March 2*).—The maid servant of Mr. Smith, farmer, near Wallsend, getting up early to wash, incautiously, to make a light, took a bag of gunpowder, and scattered some of it upon the fire, which communicating with the rest made a terrible explosion, insomuch that it threw a door off the hinges at the foot of the staircase, forced open the door of the lodging room above, and blew off part of the roof. Mr. Smith being awakened by the noise, got up and found the poor girl lying upon the floor in a most deplorable condition, miserably scorched, and the clothes which she had laid out to wash were burnt.

March 6.—About two o'clock in the morning, a fire broke out in the dwelling house of Mr. Barber, at Summer-hill, near Newcastle, which in four hours consumed the same, and as there had not been any fires in the house for some time, it was strongly suspected to have been set on fire by the person or persons who sent Mr. B. two incendiary letters, demanding him to place money upon his garden wall. A reward of £110. and his majesty's pardon were offered, but without effect.

March 18.—Died at Tynemouth, Daniel Bennet, aged 107 years. He had been an out-pensioner of Chelsea, from the year 1706.

June 14.—A most melancholy accident happened to a man named James Kirkup, employed in a brewery at Newcastle, who had the misfortune to fall into a copper of boiling wort, and was scalded in such a dreadful manner, that the nails and skin came off his whole body. He was taken to the Infirmary, but soon expired, leaving a widow and six helpless children.

June 15.—A fire broke out in the plate glass-house at Howdon Pans, on the river Tyne, occasioned by some old billet wood being piled up to dry on the north side of the house, which by the heat of the furnace took fire, and communicated the flames to the roof, and in a small space of time consumed three fourths of the building. By the assistance of Mr. Hurry and his carpenters, the east end of the building was saved, together with the adjoining building belonging to Mr. Edward Anderson.

June 19.—The free and accepted masons, walked in procession from the lodge at Barnardcastle, to lay the foundation stone of a new bridge over the river Tees, between Rokeby Park and Barnardcastle. Mr. Hutchinson, master of the lodge, walked first in the procession, dressed in white and gold, with John Sawrey Morrill, esq., and the Rev. Mr. Zouch, in white leather aprons edged with blue ribbon, and the rest in their respective ranks. After the stone was laid, they proceeded to a tent erected for the purpose, when the master delivered an excellent lecture, which gave great and general satisfaction, and then walked in procession to Rokeby-hall, where a sumptuous entertainment was provided for them by J. S. Morrill, esq. The spectators were very numerous. This bridge was built at the sole expence of Mr. Morrill.

July 22.—The workmen began to drive the piles for the erecting of a new bridge over the river Tyne at Newcastle, in the same place where the old one stood. Oct. 14th, 1774, the foundation stone of the bishop of Durham's part (the three southermost arches)

was laid, and on the 8th July, 1775, his first arch was closed in, on which occasion there were great rejoicings in Gateshead. Mr. Milne was the bishop's engineer, for his portion of the bridge. April 25th, 1775, the first stone of the corporation side of Tyne bridge, Newcastle, was laid by Sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., amidst a great concourse of spectators. July 8th, 1776, a copper medal, containing a device and inscription, about four inches diameter, inclosed in a thick glass case, was laid in the south east corner of one of the new piers of the bridge, to which spot the boundaries of the corporation of Newcastle, (denoted by a blue flag stone), extend southward. The device exhibited the Newcastle Exchange, with the genius of commerce sitting by it, supporting the arms of the corporation, and presenting a purse to a figure in the robes of magistracy, directing his attention to a prospect of some rising piers of a bridge, with shipping and lighters on the river. Over the device the motto—" *Quod felix faustumque sit*" On the reverse was inscribed—" *This stone, being the boundary of the Corporation of Newcastle southward, was laid, anno dom. 1776, in the mayoralty of CHARLES ATKINSON, esq., WILLIAM CRAMLINGTON, esq., sheriff.*" It was laid by Mr. Mayor, accompanied by the sheriff. September 13th, 1779, the sixth and last arch was closed, on which occasion, the corporation gave the workmen a plentiful dinner and drink at Mr. Burrell's, in the Flesh Market, to which place they proceeded with music and colours flying. April 29th, 1781, the passage over the temporary bridge was stopped for carriages, and next day, the workmen began to take it down, when the permanent bridge was opened for foot passengers. Mr. Wooler the engineer was employed by the corporation in the erection of their portion of the bridge.

1773 (*Aug. 10*).—In consequence of the magistrates of Newcastle advertising about 89 acres of the town moor* to be let, for the purpose of cultivation and improvement, the freemen began to be alarmed, and openly opposed this proceeding of the magistrates, who, however, paid no attention to them; The different companies then assembled, opened a subscription, and determined to try the matter at law, a committee was chosen composed of the following gentlemen:—Nathaniel Bayles, surgeon; Henry Gibson, surgeon; Alexander Adams, hoastman; Thomas Maud, mariner; Michael Tyzack, surgeon; William Smith, surgeon; Benjamin Brunton, cordwainer; Matthew Laidler, baker and brewer; William Addison, tallow chandler; and Thomas Maddison, bricklayer; who, after giving formal notice, pulled down a part of a fence, and broke a gate; for this the lessee, Mr. Joshua Hopper, supported by the magistrates, commenced a suit, which was tried on the above day before Mr. Justice Gould, and the following gentlemen, composing a special jury:—William Bainbridge, esq., Newgate street; Michael Pearson, esq., Pilgrim street; Robert Ilderton, esq.,

* The town moor, was originally a wood famous for oak trees, out of which have been built many hundreds of ships, and all the old houses of that town.

Westoe; Mr. Joseph Robinson, Close; Mr. John Davenport, Side; Mr. Paul Jackson, Pilgrim street; Mr. Michael Callendar, Middle street; Mr. Paul Henzell, Low glass houses; Mr. John English, Earsdon; Mr. Thomas Newton, Quay-side; Mr. John Fenwick, Quay-side; Mr. Richard Burdon, Shieldfield; council for the magistrates, Chambre, Bolton, and Wallace; for the burgesses, sergeant Glynn, recorder of London. After the examination of Alderman Scaife, and Sir Walter Blackett, bart., on behalf of the magistrates, a compromise was offered by the magistrates, and accepted by the committee of burgesses, by which compromise, the exclusive right to the town moor and leazes, was confirmed to the burgesses and their widows, by an act of parliament obtained June 14th, 1774, at the expence of the corporation, who also paid £300. costs. When this trial was finished, many of the burgesses illuminated their houses, and paraded the streets with music, &c. August 6th, when Sergeant Glynn was coming to Newcastle, he was met at the head of the Bottle Bank, in Gateshead, by a large number of the burgesses, who took the horses out of the carriage, and dragged it themselves to his lodgings at the Forth, amidst the firing of guns, ringing of bells, and the cheering of the populace. He refused taking a brief in any other cause but that of the burgesses, which he came down to defend, and left the town the morning after the trial, on his return to London. The committee were presented with the freedom of several of the companies; that of the tailor's company, presented each of them with a gold ring with suitable inscriptions. The company of cordwainers caused a suitable inscription, and the names of the committee, written in gold, to be hung up in their hall.

1773 (*Aug. 21*).—The first stone of a new bridge, at Alnwick, was laid in the presence of his grace the duke of Northumberland, and several other persons of distinction. Under the foundation stone his grace deposited several medals.

August 23.—Matthew Vasey was executed at Durham, for the robbery of a Polish jew, near Darlington, of ninety guineas.

The same day, the centres were struck from the two new arches of Haydon-bridge, re-built by Messrs. Leybourn, Nicholson, and Maddison. One arch was 78 feet the chord line, and the other 69 feet, and were thought to be two of the finest and largest arches that had been built on any part of the river Tyne.

August 30.—A milk-market was established at Newcastle, and on this day, Mr. John Hogg, farmer, near Coxlodge, brought the first horse load of milk to the new market at the White Cross, in Newgate Street, which was immediately sold.

August.—An elegant new organ which cost £300., raised by a generous subscription of the gentlemen of Berwick, was placed in the church of that town.

September 13.—Elizabeth Herring, who had been tried and convicted at the Old Bailey, London, on the 10th, for the murder of her husband, was conveyed on a hurdle from Newgate to Tyburn, where being fixed to a stake, she was strangled, after which her

body was burnt. She belonged originally to Newcastle, distinguished by the name of "*Mustard Bet*," and had been shipwrecked on the 18th of December, 1770, aboard of the *Peggy* sloop-of-war, then carrying impressed men of whom her husband was one.

1773 (*Sept. 18*).—Died, at Newcastle, of a lingering illness, the ingenious Mr. John Cunningham, aged 44, well known in the literary world for his very eminent pastoral talents. September 20th, his remains were interred in St. John's church-yard, Newcastle, with the most decent funeral solemnity, being attended by a number of respectable gentlemen of that town, whose regard for the memory of the deceased, prompted this last voluntary mark of their esteem. The organist played a solemn dirge. His friend and patron, Mr. Slack, publisher of the Newcastle Chronicle, erected a table monument over his remains. Mr. Cunningham was at one period of his life a member of the Newcastle, Shields, Sunderland, &c., company of comedians; and a dramatic piece written by him when only 17 years of age, called "*Love in a Mist, or the Lass of Spirit*," was performed in Newcastle. Miss Hornby, late of Albion Street, Newcastle, had an original portrait of Cunningham, done from the life, by the late Mr. Thomas Bewick. The poet was averse to his portrait being taken, therefore Mr. Bewick sketched it from seeing him in the streets.

September 25.—Died, at his seat at Gainslaw, near Berwick, William Compton, esq., recorder of Berwick. Mr. Compton was buried in the family vault in his own garden.

October 25.—A bull was baited in the Market-place, at Alnwick, which was treated with such brutal wantonness, that at length he lay down and expired at the ring.

November 2.—The workmen began to pull down the ancient Scale or Kale cross, at the foot of the Side, Newcastle. Mention is made of this cross so early as the reign of Richard II.

November 8.—A new lodge of free and accepted masons was constituted at Gateshead (by a special warrant for that purpose from the right hon. Lord Petre, grand-master of the order in England), under the name of the "*Union Lodge*." The procession began at Swalwell, and was met by the master, officers, and brethren, of the Union lodge, a mile from Gateshead, attended by the band of music belonging to the 68th regiment, and all the honourable trophies of masonry to the lodge house, where there was an elegant entertainment, during which volleys of small arms were fired at intervals of fifteen minutes.

November 24.—William Yelder, esq., sheriff of the town and county of Newcastle, held his first county court, to proceed in two civil actions, as he was commanded by writs of justices. It was said that court had not been held for the like purpose since Queen Elizabeth's reign.

December 6.—About noon, the foul air in an old waste of a colliery, near the river Wear, took fire, and breaking down the barrier or partition between the waste and the working pit, made most awful explosions. The pit was 80 fathoms deep, and every thing

in the way of the blast was thrown out of the shaft to the height of 200 yards in the air. Most of the pitmen having just in time discovered the danger, were drawn up and escaped unhurt, but some boys and one man who were left behind, lost their lives, and also four horses were torn to pieces, and were thrown to an astonishing height in the air. Most dreadful explosions continued all the day at about five minutes' distance.

1773 (*Dec. 20*).—The corporation of Newcastle granted premiums for the largest quantity of fish and potatoes brought into that town in one year, from the 1st of March 1774 to the 1st of March 1775.

On throwing over the bank at Bamborough Castle, a prodigious quantity of sand, the remains of a chapel 100 feet in length were discovered.

This year, a very extensive division of common lands, extending to above 16,000 acres, took place within the parish of Lanchester, in the county of Durham. The division included the wastes called Lanchester Fell, Medomsley Fell, Ebchester, Rowley, Satley, and Butsfield Fells, Newbiggen Fell, and Knitchley Fell.

The corporation of Berwick, this year, brought an action in the court of King's Bench, against James Johnson, a non-freeman (or *foreigner*!), for keeping an open shop and selling linen drapery goods by retail. The cause was tried at the Northumberland assizes the same year, and a verdict was given for Johnson, subject to the opinion of the court. In the Michaelmas term following, the court gave judgment in favour of Johnson, which established the liberty of non-freemen. This narrow-minded policy, which was once very general, has long since ceased to exist.

1774 (*Jan. 9*).—Died, in Newcastle, of the small-pox, in the 23d year of his age, Mr. George Coughron (clerk to Richard Brown of Newcastle, esq.), one of the most promising mathematicians of the age. The prizes in the Diaries and Palladium were repeatedly conferred upon him.

January 14.—The river Tyne for about four miles below the bridge at Newcastle was frozen over, and several hundreds of people amused themselves by sliding, skating, and other diversions. Above bridge, owing to the uneven state of the ice, no person went upon it. Several workmen were employed to break and clear away those pieces that lay contiguous to the piles of the temporary wooden bridge, lest the motion of the ice, by the rising and falling of the tide, might injure them. On the 18th, two young men performed a skating match against time below bridge: they were to go three miles down the river, and up again in sixteen minutes, but they, with the greatest ease, performed it in fifteen minutes.

January 16.—Died, at the Mansion-house, in the 56th year of his age, the right worshipful Matthew Scafe, esq., mayor of Newcastle, and on the following morning, the regalia were surrendered to Matthew Ridley, esq., as senior alderman, who held the Guild that day (Monday), and the Sessions on Wednesday, agreeable to

the charter. On Thursday came on the election for a mayor and an alderman of that corporation, when Edward Mosley, esq., was unanimously elected mayor, and Sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., alderman, in the room of Mr. Scafe, whose remains were privately interred in the family vault at Tanfield,* on Wednesday, the 19th. Sunday, January 23d, the mayor, magistrates, and sheriff, went to St. Nicholas' church in mourning, with the regalia covered with crape. The pulpit and the corporation pew were covered with black cloth, and ornamented with escutcheons, and the Rev. Dr. Fawcett, vicar, preached a most excellent sermon on the occasion.

1774 (*Jan. 23*).—Died, Mr. Thomas Crisp, a wealthy farmer, near Morpeth, in the 100th year of his age.

February 14.—Died, in Sandgate, Elizabeth Roy, aged 100 years.

February 22.—An association for the prosecuting of felons was begun by the inhabitants of Gateshead.

This month, died at Durham, in the 104th year of her age, Eleanor Shipley, who retained her senses to the last.

March 1.—An old woman went into the house of a farmer, named Sadler, near old Axwell Hall, in the parish of Whickham, to light a pipe, soon after the thatched roof was on fire, and the wind being very high, the house was burnt down so rapidly, that nothing could be saved but a dresser, and five guineas which were run into bullion.

March 2.—An outer tower of the castle wall, near the gaol gate, in the city of Durham, fell suddenly in the night.

April 2.—The remains of the Hon. and Rev. Dr. Cowper, dean of Durham, were deposited in the north-east corner of the nine altars in the cathedral. The full service of Croft and Purcell was performed with the greatest solemnity, and upwards of 2,000 people attended the last rites of so good and worthy a man. There had not been a dean interred in that abbey since Dean Sudbury, in the year 1684.

April 9.—A human skeleton was found near an old quarry, at Low Heworth, in the county of Durham, supposed to have lain there a great number of years.

April 10.—The electric fluid struck a house in Longhaugh-shield, near Bellingham, and a man with his wife, sitting by the fire-side, were both instantly killed; another person sitting between them was not hurt. The house, by the lightning, was almost immediately in flames, when a child in bed was burnt to death, and another much scorched. The ground around the house was furrowed up, and a large rock near to it shattered to pieces. The house was reduced to ashes.

* On a tablet tomb of blue marble, under the outside of the east window of Tanfield church, in the county of Durham, is the following inscription:—
 "Here lies the body of Matthew Scafe, of Newcastle upon Tyne, esquire, who was elected alderman of that corporation in 1765, and mayor in 1766 and 1773. He died during his mayoralty, January 16th, 1774, aged 55." On the right of Mr. Scafe's is another tablet tomb, recording the death of Ann Scafe, who died the 30th of September, 1812, aged 64 years.



1774 (*April 27*).—Died, at Hampstead near London, Anthony Askew, esquire, M. D., aged 52 years. He was physician to St. Bartholomew's and Christ's hospitals, and registrar and fellow of the royal college of physicians, London. On the death of his father, Dr. Adam Askew, of Newcastle, he succeeded to his immense wealth, of which he had little enjoyment, having soon after lost a most amiable wife. Twelve orphan children (the oldest of whom was not 20 years of age), were left to lament the deaths of their most worthy parents. These are the orphans alluded to in the inscription on the beautiful Askew monument in

St. Nicholas's church, Newcastle, of which this wood cut shews an interesting portion.

May 14.—The remains of the duke of Cleveland were privately interred in the family vault at Staindrop.

May 16.—The foundation stone of the Assembly Rooms, at Newcastle, was laid by William Lowes, esq., in the presence of a great company of ladies and gentlemen. June 24th, 1776, these rooms were opened, when there was a very numerous and brilliant company, who expressed great pleasure at their elegance. The assembly was opened by Sir William Loraine, bart., with Mrs. Bell, Jun., and Sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., with Miss Allgood. There was an act of parliament, 14th of Geo. III., to enable Dr. Fawcett, vicar of Newcastle, to grant a lease of part of his garden for nine hundred and ninety-nine years, and at a rent of £20. a-year, for the purpose of erecting this edifice upon. A plate with an inscription was deposited under the stone.

August 10.—Being the anniversary of the termination of the dispute between the corporation and the burgesses of Newcastle, relating to the mode of letting parcels of the Town-moor for improvement, a number of the burgesses assembled, and had a bull baited on that part which the corporation had let, after which they dined at the Black Boy, in the Groat-market, a number of patriotic toasts were drunk, and the day concluded with ringing of bells, firing of guns, &c.

August 20.—George Davidson, was executed at Morpeth, pursuant to his sentence at the assizes, for a rape.

October 30.—Died, at Longhirst, near Morpeth, aged 110 years,

Catherine Brown ; she retained her faculties to the last, and what was very remarkable, her diet had been for many years bread and small beer of her own brewing.

1774 (Nov. 19).—This day was held at Newcastle, the first meeting of the association of schoolmasters in the north of England. The object of the society in this institution, was the relief of their distressed and aged brethren, and their widows and orphans. It was the first institution of the kind in England.

This year, Malcolm's cross, near Alnwick, was restored by his descendant, Elizabeth, duchess of Northumberland, to distinguish the spot where Malcolm III., king of Scotland was slain while besieging Alnwick castle in 1093, *which see*.

A gunpowder magazine, this year, duly licenced, was erected by the corporation of Newcastle, at Wincomblee quay, on the river Tyne, east of that town.

This year, a bridge was attempted to be built at Hexham, fifty yards westward of the bridge built in 1767, and which had been carried away by the flood in 1771. It was on Mr. Wooler's plan of piles below the piers, but this was soon abandoned, on discovering that on both sides of the river beneath the gravel, was a quicksand, with no more resistance than chaff. The plan of building a solid wall for the foundations of a bridge was likewise abandoned. In 1777, another bridge was commenced building by Mr. Smeaton, on *batter-d'eaux* and caissons. While building, its piers were washed away by a flood the following year. The building being again resumed and finished, the passage along it was opened July 1st, 1780, when John Errington, esq., of Beaufront, was the first that passed it, who made a handsome present to the workmen. It stood several floods, and in January, 1781, was viewed by Mr. Smeaton, and several magistrates, when it was highly commended. On Sunday evening, March 10th, 1782, there was a fall of snow, followed by a violent hurricane ; the snow was saturated with rain, and extended like one immense lake. The face of the country being steep, the rivers rose suddenly at the junction of the North and South Tyne, without any considerable flat to spend themselves upon. On the Monday morning, Mr. Donkin, of Sandoe (Mr. Errington's bailiff), perceiving an extraordinary flood, came down to the bridge, the water was running with the velocity of 1,000 feet in a minute ! Mr. Donkin's son, with some workmen, crossed to the south side, to examine the state of the bridge, they had scarcely returned with the report "*All Safe*," when Mr. Donkin, to his great surprise, perceived some particles of lime flying from the fourth arch. He pointed his observations to that place only. The lime continued to fall, increasing in size and quantity for the space of a minute ; soon after, he perceived a crack across the bend of the arch towards the upper side of the bridge, it gradually widened, the plain part of the spandrel between the third and fourth arch shook, the splinters increased, in a minute more it gave way, the two arches and a pier fell together, and in half an hour, the structure was a heap of ruins, only two arches remaining, and these fell in the evening. This bridge was called Mr. Erring-

ton's bridge; it consisted of nine arches. From the materials of the former bridge, £3,000. were obtained, and £5,000. more were furnished by the county. Notwithstanding all these misfortunes, a fourth attempt was made, and the present bridge built, under the direction of Mr. Mylne, the last arch of which was closed, September 19th, 1793. The workmen paraded the streets of Hexham in procession on the occasion, and a most joyous evening closed the long-wished-for day.

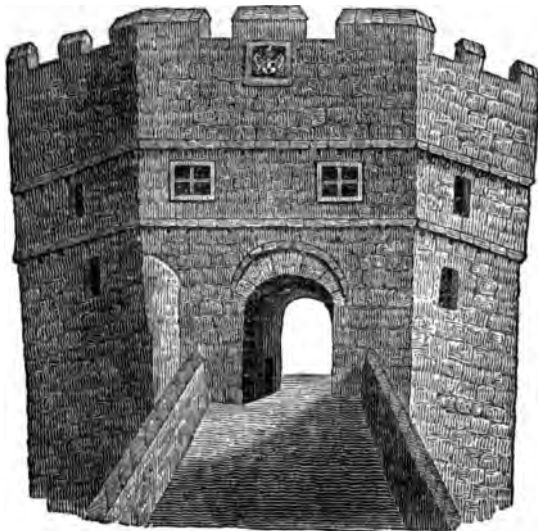
1775 (*Jan. 17*).—The company of cordwainers of Newcastle presented the freedom of their company to Sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., after which he invited them to the Mansion-house where they presented him with a prize shoe, out of which several humorous healths were drunk with great festivity.

March.—There were commotions amongst the sailors at Shields and Sunderland, owing to the owners and masters of ships determining not to load coals at the advanced price of 1s. per chaldron; and being collected in bodies, they proceeded to strike the topmasts and unrig several ships in the London trade, and prevented any vessels from sailing. On the morning of the 22d, Mr. William Chapman, of the Low Barns, near Sunderland, owner of the Concord, Johnson, master, lying in Shields harbour, bound for the Baltic, applied to the magistrates of Newcastle for aid of the civil power, in order to get his ship to sea. On which Mr. Alderman Blackett told him he would give him all the assistance in his power, when he immediately went down to Shields with Mr. Chapman, where he took the water bailiff and several constables on board the ship, and proceeded to sea without molestation, though great numbers of sailors were on the banks on both sides of the river. As soon as the ship was clear of the river, Mr. Blackett, Mr. Chapman, and the officers, returned on shore, when Mr. Blackett was much applauded by several masters for his great intrepidity; and they promised to endeavour to get to sea the next tide, which they accomplished, and good order was again re-established.

March 15.—A number of gentlemen of Newcastle, many of them eminent in the literary world, formed themselves into an association, called the Philosophical Society, and at a meeting held on the above day, after the member appointed to give a lecture, had finished his discourse, the following question was debated:—“Which of two persons, equally qualified, is most likely to attain first to a distinct knowledge of any intricate subject, he who searches into it by contemplation, and the help of books only, or, he who attends a well-regulated society, where the subject is freely debated, as a question, on both sides, or demonstrated by the joint endeavours of the members?” after being ably discussed for about two hours, the question was at last determined in favour of the latter proposition. The next question proposed was, “Whether does an exquisite sensibility of mind make for or against the happiness of the possessor?”

1775 (*June 9*).—At the Low Lights, near North Shields, 265 salmon were caught by the fishermen at one draught.

July 4.—The workmen employed in taking down the ruins of Tyne-bridge, at Newcastle, found in the east corner of the pillar on which the tower on the bridge stood, the bones of a human skeleton.* And about eighteen inches lower was discovered a stone coffin, about six feet three inches in length, entirely empty. There was no inscription upon it. There were on this bridge, besides many houses and shops, three towers or gates, each formerly having had a portcullis:—one at the north end, called the “Magazine-gate;” a second, called the “Tower on the bridge;” and the third, at the south end, in Gateshead. Near this last had been a draw-bridge. The Magazine-gate had been pulled down a short time before the fall of the bridge to widen its north entrance. On the front of the tower adjoining Gateshead, were the arms, cut in stone, of Nathaniel Lord Crewe, bishop of Durham. This stone was preserved by the late Hugh Hornby, esq., alderman of Newcastle, and placed in his garden wall, in Pilgrim-street.



The tower on the bridge was a place of temporary confinement for disorderly persons. There was a stone with the town's arms on it, placed on the south front, with the motto "*Ffortiter defendit triumphans*, 1646." This stone was also preserved by Alderman Hornby, and placed in his garden-wall. The house and garden is

* As there appears to have been a hermitage on Tyne bridge, could this have been the skeleton of an anchorite who had been buried in his cell?

now the property of Anthony Clapham, esq., who has paid every attention to the preservation of these relics of the old bridge; having built upon the garden ground, the stones are placed in the wall over two office doors. The above cut is taken from an original drawing, in the possession of Miss Hornby, daughter of the late Alderman Hornby.

1775 (*July 10*).—The workmen began to erect a temporary light-house at Tynemouth, in order to rebuild the old one in a more commodious manner.

This month, died at Raby, Robert Ainsley, aged 102 years.

August.—As two men were pulling down Fenwick Tower, near Stamfordham, in Northumberland, they found several hundreds of gold coins of Edward III., in a stone chest, covered with sand, twelve inches deep, and placed over the arch of the cellar door, which was immediately under the flags of the castle-gate. They were supposed to have been concealed on an inroad of David, king of Scots, in 1360, as far as Hexham, whence he carried off the two sons of Sir John Fenwick, the owner of this castle, who did not long survive the loss, and probably then concealed this treasure. The two labourers having quarrelled, the circumstance became divulged, in consequence of which, Sir Walter Blackett, bart., as lord of the manor, had eighty from one man and thirty-five from the other, delivered to him. The men had sold great quantities to various people. The impressions were as perfect as if newly from the mint.

September 2.—The proclamation of war with America was read in Newcastle. The mayor and sheriff being out of town, the aldermen, Mosley, Blackett, and Baker, with the under-sheriff and town's serjeants attended. The populace heard it in silence.

October 22.—The following melancholy accident happened at the Methodist meeting house, Sunderland. A gentlewoman being to preach there, the place was crowded, so that the galleries, &c. were completely filled. After the service was begun, a woman who sat under one of the galleries (either through fear or design) began to signify her suspicions that the gallery was giving way, the alarm spread among those who were near her, and they immediately began to make for the doors (some, indeed, endeavoured to appease them, but in vain). Every thing was now tumult and confusion; the shrieks of women and children filled the place. Some cried out fire, and others that the galleries were coming down; some broke the windows, and threw themselves out, at the hazard of breaking their limbs; while others in crowding down the stairs from the galleries, broke down the rails of the stairs, and fell down from thence among the benches. Several women were trampled down and miserably bruised, and one woman was killed outright. Those few only who remained quiet in their places escaped unhurt. It was found afterwards, that the alarm was entirely without foundation.

October 23.—A meeting of the free burgesses of Newcastle took place at the Forth-house, to petition his majesty against the war

with America. It was signed by 1,210 burgesses, and presented by Sir George Saville,—Sir Walter Blackett and Sir Matthew White Ridley, barts., having declined to present it. Another address to his majesty, urging the subjugation of America, was got up, and presented by Sir Walter Blackett and Sir M. W. Ridley, barts. This was signed by 169 persons.

1775 (*October 31*).—Died, at Chesterhope, Mr. Thomas Forster, aged 100 years.

November 2.—The new colliery, at Willington, near Howden Pans, Northumberland, was won; on which occasion the owners gave a fat ox roasted, a large quantity of ale, and a waggon load of punch to the pitmen, sinkers, &c.

November 23.—The ferry-boat at Lambton, near Chester-le-street, upset whilst crossing the river Wear, when eight persons unfortunately perished—one man leaped out of the boat, upon a shelf of stones, which he knew were there (they being bare at low water), and stood up to the neck in water until rescued by a boat; other six who were in the boat, were also saved by the means of boats going to their assistance.

November 25.—Died, at Beanley, Nicholas Henderson, formerly a rye carrier between Wooler and Morpeth, aged 105 years.

November 26.—Died, at Angerton, near Morpeth, Mary Soppit, aged 100 years.

November.—Died, at Monkseaton, Mary Magdalen, a poor woman, aged 104 years.

December 7.—Died, at Haltwhistle, Dr. Alexander Maxwell, in the 103d year of his age; he retained his faculties to the last.

This year, the Society of Arts presented a premium of seven guineas to Mr. Thomas Bewick, of Newcastle, for an engraving on wood, the subject, "*The Old Hound*."

A workman employed this year in throwing down a hedge at Castle Eden, Durham, found a glass vase, the mouth of which was applied to a human skull, so near the surface, as to leave the bottom of the vase exposed in the gutter of the hedge. The body had been deposited horizontally with the head towards the east, and had been covered with a heap of common field stones. The labourer represented the skull and bones as appearing entire, but he was prevented by the clergyman of Castle Eden from making any further research. The ground was, however, again opened soon after by Mr. Burdon's directions, and a cavity was discovered beneath the *cairn* or heap of stones, large enough to contain a body of ordinary dimensions, with a quantity of deep-coloured soil, the ashes probably of the bones which mouldered on the admission of the air. The vase was full of earth, and when emptied, appeared to retain a subtile aromatic smell.

1776 (*January 6*).—Died, in Newcastle, Isaac Thompson, esq., printer, aged 72 years. He was a person of considerable literary attainments, and his compositions, which are very numerous, lie scattered in many periodical publications. He was the author of "A Collection of Poems, occasionally Writ on Several Subjects."

Newcastle upon Tyne, Printed by John White, for the Author, and sold by the Booksellers, 1791." Mr. Thompson, gave public lectures on Natural and Experimental Philosophy in 1739, and in the following year, he was joined in these lectures by Mr. William Elstob, and afterwards by Mr. Robert Harrison, the great mathematician, master of the Trinity-house school, in Newcastle, who died at Durham, in November, 1802. Mr. Thompson published a newspaper, called the Newcastle Journal (*see* April 7th, 1739), and the Newcastle General Magazine, &c. &c. He was interred on the 9th, in the Friends' burial ground.

1776 (*Jan. 26*).—In the evening a heavy fall of snow came on at Newcastle and the neighbourhood, which continued almost without intermission all that night and the next day, which was thrown into such dreadful drifts on the high roads in the country, as to render most of them totally impassable, so that the market-day in Newcastle did not exceed even the ordinary number of people in the streets on any other day of the week. The frost became so very intense, that those country people residing within a few miles of the town, who surmounted every obstacle to get to market, had their eyes apparently frozen up. The river from Newburn, to about two miles below bridge, was totally frozen and fixed; and hundreds of people were walking and skating thereon every day. Two women going from Newcastle market home, were so fatigued by the deep snow, and benumbed by the frost, that they were obliged to take shelter in a house on the road, at Loosing-hill, near Whickham, where they both died in a few hours. The same day a fisherman was found in the snow between Trimdon and Morton moors. A poor fellow, Ralph of Winlaton, well known for selling rods and walking-sticks, in Newcastle, perished in the snow between Swalwell and Winlaton. The same night, two farmers going from Newcastle to the neighbourhood of Earsdon, were lost on Killingworth-moor; their horses were found next day. Jan. 29th, some hundreds of men were employed in clearing Shields, Ponteland, and Morpeth turnpike-roads; on the latter, a horse, with a saddle, was found dead in the snow.

March 16.—A fire broke out in the stable of Mr. Ralph Pickering, carrier, near Chollerford, which consumed it, with a quantity of hay, 60 bushels of oats, one of the waggon-horses, and also the dwelling-house. The accident was occasioned by the servant leaving a candle in the stable, which had fallen among the bedding, and set the whole in a blaze during his absence in watering the horses.

July 5.—A most violent thunder storm happened in Newcastle. The first flash of lightning, which was uncommonly vivid, fell upon the chimney of Mr. Yielder's dwelling-house, struck it down, entered the roof, followed and shattered the spars, forced off the tiles, entered the rooms, tore up part of the floors, rent the ceilings, and shattered very much the spouts on both sides of the house, and sash-frames and bedsteads in the upper rooms; blew out almost every pane of glass in the windows, throwing them

nearly 30 yards distance; tinged some plate and melted the bell-wire, and following the handle rod at the street door, seized the end of the lock staple, and split the door-case and door near the lock in a very extraordinary manner. What was very remarkable, it locked one door so that it could not be opened without taking off the lock, and the clock was stopped by it at 26 minutes past 8. It ploughed furrows in the walls of the upper rooms, shivered a chimney-piece, took off the top part of a looking-glass, in a room where Mrs. Yelder was sitting, and did considerable damage to other parts of the house and furniture. A canary bird, in a wire cage, remained unhurt, nor was the cage damaged, though the window before which it hung was shattered greatly, and the ceiling above it all torn down. Providentially no person was hurt, though the family were all in the house. A boy in the house adjoining, was thrown down by the shock, but received no injury. During the thunder storm, a ball of fire entered an apartment in the Infirmary, through an open window, where Mr. Taylor, the apothecary, and the matron, were sitting at breakfast. It passed between Mr. Taylor's legs, threw down the tea kettle, went through the door then standing open, passed along the passage, and out at an open window at the end of the passage, without doing any damage. The most dreadful clap of thunder in the storm, succeeded the flash of lightning within one second of time; so that the cloud from whence the fire descended could not be above 1,000 feet from the earth. This thunder storm was very violent to the westward of Newcastle. At Kingswood, near Hexham, a girl, servant to Mr. Wilson, milking a cow, was struck by the lightning and killed on the spot; the cow was unhurt. Two horses grazing on a fell near Newbrough, and a fat cow at Wolsingham, were also killed by it, and a cottage-house near Simonburn, was thrown down, but fortunately no person was then in it.

1776 (*July 13*).—A violent thunder storm took place in the evening—a flash of lightning entered the chimney of a farm-stead, called Greenwell, in the neighbourhood of Lanchester; it made its way through the house, split several spars and doors from top to bottom, broke all the windows, shivered the clock-case all to pieces, and scattered the works round the kitchen. It tore all the plastering from the sides and ceilings of the rooms, and rent the walls in many places. There was a man-servant and three children in the house at the time, the man was struck down at the kitchen fire side, and remained insensible for a long time; two dogs lying near him, were struck by the same flash, which instantly killed one of them, the other recovered, the children escaped by getting into a close bed, on hearing the first clap of thunder.

August 15.—Joseph Humphreys was executed near Durham, for breaking into a dwelling-house near Sunderland, and stealing thereout £14. 4s. 6d. He declared his innocence of the crime for which he suffered, to the last, and died resigned. He was about 26 years of age.

August 21.—Robert Knowles, the North Shields postman, was

executed on the town-moor, for stealing a letter out of the Newcastle post-office, in the preceding October, containing two £50. bank of England bills, the property of Robert Rankin, merchant, of Newcastle. He was dressed in black, and read a paper acknowledging the justice of his sentence. Knowles was apprehended November 13th, 1775, and escaped out of gaol in the night of June 1st, 1776. Having complained of being ill some time before, the humanity of the gaoler had so far prevailed, as to indulge him in his apartment without his irons. The turnkey going to lock in at about 9 o'clock, observed a bundle lying in the cell, and enquired of the prisoner what it contained, he said foul linen; on the turnkey beginning to examine it, Knowles slipt behind him, and drew back the lock in the inside (which the turnkey had locked himself in by, while he had examined the cell), put the hasp over the staple on the outside of the cell door, which received the hanglock, fastened the staple with a piece of wood he had made on purpose, and walked off. The turnkey finding himself secured in the place of the prisoner, called out for assistance; and though released immediately, the prisoner was fled. Knowles was re-taken on the afternoon of June 6th, while passing the engine of Walker colliery, by some men employed there, who received twenty guineas offered for his apprehension. At the place of execution, a little before he was turned off, a great uproar happened among the populace, which it was supposed took its rise from the ground of an old pit heep, where several people were standing, giving way, and occasioned a sudden outcry, which startled some horses that ran amongst the crowd; in an instant the consternation became almost general, some flying one way and some another, without knowing for what reason; in the tumult, many were thrown down and run over, but no material accident happened.

Same day, Andrew Mackenzie, a soldier, for robbing a person named Temple, on Shields road, was executed at the Westgate, Newcastle. He had wrote a confession the night before, which he intended speaking at the gallows, but his spirits failed him before he had got two lines of it delivered. During the execution of Mackenzie, a butcher belonging to Newcastle, named William Robson, who had also attended the execution of Knowles, suddenly dropt down near the gallows, and instantly expired. This young man frequently on the most trivial occasions, would exclaim "*God strike me dead!*" It is to be hoped that he was not making use of this exclamation when he made his sudden and awful exit.

September 23.—The foundation stone of St. John's lodge of free and accepted masons, was laid in Low Friar Street, Newcastle, by Mr. Francis Peacock, their worshipful master. Underneath the stone was placed a copper plate, with an elegant Latin inscription. It was dedicated, October 16th, 1777, with great solemnity. This building is now the public Dispensary.

October 10.—The annual fair to be held at Norham, was called for the first time, in the presence of Sir Thomas Haggerstone, bart., in grand procession, accompanied by several gentlemen,

and a great number of his tenants ; after which Sir Thomas gave a genteel entertainment to the company that attended him, at Mrs. Letherton's, in Norham.

1776 (*Nov. 5*).—The ancient and honourable society of free and accepted masons of St. Nicholas' lodge, Newcastle, met, and under the direction and immediate inspection of John Errington, esq., of Beaufront, provincial grand master, for Northumberland, consecrated with great solemnity, the old Assembly Room, in the Groat Market, their lodge. After which they had a very elegant entertainment.

December 5.—Died, at Northumberland house, London, her grace, Elizabeth, duchess of Northumberland. Her grace died on her birth day, having just completed her 60th year. December 18th, at night, her remains were interred at Westminster Abbey. By her grace's repeated desire, the funeral was as private as could be consistent with her rank. About ten o'clock the procession moved from Northumberland House. Early in the evening many persons had gained admittance within the iron gate that leads to the chapel in Westminster Abbey, where the remains of her grace were to be deposited, several of whom had placed themselves upon monuments and other parts the better to see the procession as it passed, and a number of men and boys had climbed up and seated themselves over the front of St. Edmund's chapel, which joins that of St. Nicholas. The dean and attendants had not passed the above-mentioned place above three minutes, before the whole front came down, consisting of thick heavy oak, with iron bars, and part of the stone work, supposed in the whole to be upwards of three tons' weight. The shrieks of the sufferers were not to be described, and among others were the following accidents :—One gentleman had both his legs broken, a little boy met with the same misfortune, three persons had their arms broken and were otherwise hurt, a soldier of the guards was cut in the head and so much bruised that his life was despaired of, and when taken up was covered with blood; many others were much bruised and hurt. This terrible misfortune delayed the ceremony of interment upwards of two hours.

December 24.—Died, near the Barras-bridge, Newcastle, Cuthbert Forster, aged 101 years.

This year, a survey of Durham cathedral being taken, and the fabric adjudged in a state of insecurity and rapid decay, a system of repair was immediately commenced, under the patronage of the dean and chapter, and continued with little intermission to the present time. For several years the expenses of this repair were not less than from £1,500. to £2,000. annually.

A more eligible road from Newcastle to Shields, was this year struck out behind Sandgate. It is called "the New Road."

This year, in a coal mine near Sunderland, a large toad was found alive in a solid coal, near 190 feet under ground, on being exposed to the air, it instantly died. It is stated that in one of the apartments of Chillingham castle, in Northumberland, the seat of

the earl of Tankerville, there is a marble chimney piece, in sawing which from the block, a live toad was discovered therein. The nidus where the animal had lodged, as it was disagreeable to the eye, by order of one of the late earls was filled with cement. There is a painting of this phenomenon in the castle, which represents the toad nearly as large as a hat crown. It is said that the other part of the block of marble was at Horton castle.

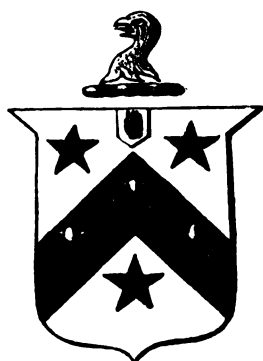
1776.—This year, an act of parliament was passed for the division and inclosure of certain open common fields, stinted pastures, and commons, moors, or waste grounds, within the manor and parish of Corbridge, in Northumberland.

1777 (*Jan.*).—Died, at Redworth, near Heighington, Mrs. Lane, in the 101st year of her age; she enjoyed a good state of health to the last.

January 15.—Died, at Alnwick, of the small-pox, in the 24th year of his age, that great and celebrated mathematician, Mr. William Wilkin. It is not a little singular, that he and his intimate and ingenious friend Mr. George Coughran, were both self-taught, and both fell victims to the small-pox in their youth. Their works in the Diaries and other publications, will remain lasting monuments of their acquirements.

February 2.—Died, at the east end of Sandgate, Newcastle, Ann Forster, at the amazing age of 123. She retained her memory in wonderful perfection, until a few days before her death; had been supported only a few years by the parish, and the small contributions of individuals. In her early years, she assisted in carrying ballast from lighters in the river to the Ballast-hills, now a public depository for the dead. She was born in the latter end of Oliver Cromwell's protectorship; and could remember the building of the bridge over the Ouseburn, at the Low Glass-houses, at which time she was about nine or ten years old.

February 8.—Died, at her house, in Northumberland Street, Newcastle, Mrs. Waters, a widow lady, in her 103d year.



on the south side of St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, See

February 14.—Died, in London, in the 69th year of his age, Sir Walter Blackett, bart., M. P. for Newcastle, and one of the aldermen of that corporation. He was mayor of Newcastle in 1735, 1748, 1756, 1764, and 1771; high-sheriff of Northumberland, 1732; M. P. for Newcastle in 1734 and 1741, with opposition; in 1747, 1754, 1760, and 1768, without opposition; and for the 7th time, in 1774, after a severe contest of eight days. Sir Walter was the oldest member in the House of Commons, having represented Newcastle near 50 years. In 1736, Sir Walter built the library

the end of the year 1736. December 4th, 1754, Sir Walter was presented with the freedom of the Merchants' Company, after which, the members received an elegant treat at the King's Head tavern, on the Quay Side. The remains of Sir Walter were interred at Calverley, in Yorkshire, agreeably to his request. Dying without issue, the title became extinct. He was a liberal benefactor to the public charities in Newcastle, and particularly to the Infirmary of that town, in short, his public and private charities were unbounded, so that his loss was severely felt. Lady Blackett died, September 21st, 1759, *which see.* There is a fine portrait of Sir Walter, in Brand's Newcastle, and another in Mr. Straker's Memoir of Sir Walter.

1777 (*Feb. 12*).—About eight o'clock in the evening, the impressed men on board the Union tender at Shields, rose upon the crew and took possession of the ship, and notwithstanding the fire from the other tenders, and Clifford's fort, carried her out to sea. On the 14th, advice was received of her safe arrival at Scarborough, and that only seventeen men had quitted her.

February 24.—Lieutenant Oakes, on the impress service at Shields, having had information that the seamen on board the colliers had left their ships, and taken boats to hinder the vessels from sailing that were then ready; ordered his boats to be manned, and to prevent any ill consequences from resistance, took two blunderbusses loaded with bird shot. On seeing a boat containing about twenty men, he rowed towards it, but before he could reach it, they had got close to the ships and got on board the *Present Succession*, John Reed, master, where they mustered on the fore-castle, joined by a great number of seamen from different ships; and whilst Mr. Oakes was employed in securing those for his majesty's service who had not got out of the boat, those on board threw large coals and billets of wood at him, threatening his life in the most opprobrious manner, and paying no regard to the remonstrances and expostulations which he made use of, they continued their unwarrantable proceedings so obstinately, that he presented a gun three times, and at last elevated it to throw the shot above the men's heads, but it hung fire, and upon his taking it from his shoulder to see what was the matter, it went off and wounded one of the men assembled on board the *Present Succession*, so much, that he afterwards died. It was thought scarcely possible for Mr. Oakes and his people to have escaped with their lives.

April.—Died in the township of Woolviston, near Stockton, John Mowbray, aged upwards of 100 years. His wife was then living, and was above 100 years.

May 3.—During a thunder storm, the house of Haannah Wanlass and her son, at Ouston, near Chester-le-street, was struck by the lightning. It entered the house by the roof, and descended to the ground-floor, where Mr. Wanlass (her son), and three of his children were sitting by the fire-side, struck one of the children on one side of the head, and laid it insensible for some hours, threw the father and the other two children off their seats, one

upon another, without hurting them; a cat, sitting by the fire-side was severed into four parts by the lightning, which also set the bedding and furniture on fire, and all was totally consumed.

1777 (*June*).—There was a very great flood in the high quarter of Hexhamshire; the water descended as it were in sheets, and smoking along the ground, on a sudden turned small rivulets into unfordable streams, the ground was torn up in many places, some houses filled with water, and even in danger of being carried away; stone walls were thrown down, pavements demolished, and the materials rolled to a considerable distance.

July.—Sir John Trevelyan presented to the Infirmary, at Newcastle, a full-length picture, painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds, of Sir Walter Blackett, bart., one of the greatest benefactors and friends to that charity.

October 2.—The Dispensary, at Newcastle, was first opened in a house in Pilgrim Street; but, upon the funds for supporting this laudable charity accumulating, the governors were enabled to make a purchase of the free mason's lodge (St. John's), in Low Friar Street, to which it was removed in 1790.

November 3.—At night a dreadful fire broke out in the stack-yard at Foxton-hall, near Alnmouth, in Northumberland, which, before it could be got under, consumed upwards of twenty stacks of corn, mostly wheat. The dwelling-house, the hay, and one stack of barley, were saved. It was strongly suspected to have been the work of incendiaries, as many of the stacks were on fire at the same time.

November 16.—At night, the custom-house, at Hartlepool, was burnt down; a large seizure of goods had been lodged there the day before, from which there was great reason to believe it had been maliciously set on fire.

November.—At Whitburn, in the county of Durham, were discovered, in the thatch of an old cottage, a great number of pieces of silver coin, consisting of a few half-crowns of Charles I., and the rest shillings and sixpences of Elizabeth, James, and Charles I.

Within the door of the Chapter-house of Hulne abbey, near Alawick, there was, this year, found a skeleton, extremely perfect, supposed to have been one of the superiors of the convent.

This year, a conductor was affixed to the steeple of St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, to preserve it from lightning. One of the pinnacles was re-built, and several other necessary reparations were made at the same time, at the expense of the corporation of that town. Mr. Wooler, the engineer, employed by the corporation for Tyne Bridge, conducted the business of this reparation.

The Society of Arts, this year, presented the silver medal to Messrs. Callander, of Newcastle, for cultivating and curing rhubarb.

This year, there was an order of common council for conveying the water in Spring Gardens, at the head of Gallowgate, Newcastle, into that town for public use.

1778 (*January 26*).—Died, at Piercebridge, near Darlington,

Mary Hildray, aged 107 years, a tenant to Lord Darlington, and the Raby family, near 90 years, and was never married.

1778 (*Feb. 8*).—Died, at Hexham, Thomas Graham, aged 103 years. He was by trade a tinker, which he followed till within a few hours of his death; but his character was the very reverse of the generality of people of that denomination. He served as a private soldier in King William's army.

April 6.—Died, at Heaton, near Newcastle, in the 67th year of his age, Matthew Ridley, esq., senior alderman of Newcastle, and who had represented that town in four successive parliaments, viz.:—1747, 1754, 1761, and 1768. At the general election in 1774, he declined in favour of his son, Sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., he was mayor of Newcastle in the years 1733, 1745, 1751, and 1759. In 1740 he was elected governor of the Merchants' Company. April 13th, his remains were interred in the family vault in St. Nicholas' church, in a grand manner:—The pall was supported by the Rev. Dr. Fawcett, vicar; Christopher Fawcett, esq., recorder; Aubone Surtees, John Erasmus Blackett, Edward Mosley, John Baker, Francis Forster, and Charles Atkinson, esqrs. and aldermen. While memory or record last, the great, the important services, Mr. Ridley did Newcastle in the rebellion of 1745, can never be effaced; when, by his watchful conduct, counsels, and stratagema, he diverted the intention of the rebels from taking this route to the south, and from his own fortune, expended a large sum in providing for the safety of that town and county, at that critical time threatened with rapine and plunder; for which conduct, on the arrival of his royal highness the duke of Cumberland, at the Mansion-house, on his way to Culloden, he asked for Mr. Ridley (then out of his mayoralty), who being presented to his highness, he told him, that *he had it in charge from his royal father, to deliver to him his particular thanks for his loyalty and good conduct in the preservation of this country.* There is a fine whole-length portrait of Mr. Ridley, by Webb, in the governors' hall, in the Infirmary, at Newcastle. *See September, page 171.*

April 26.—Died, in Newgate Street, Newcastle, Mrs. Slack, wife of Mr. Slack, printer and publisher of the Newcastle Chronicle. To her literary abilities, the public were indebted for several valuable publications (*Fisher's Grammar and Tutor, the Pleasing Instructor, &c.*), adapted to the use of schools, as well as private instruction, which will remain lasting monuments to her memory.

May 1.—About two o'clock on the morning, the right hon. Lord Algernon Percy, received an express from the secretary at war, ordering the Northumberland militia to march to Newcastle and Tynemouth barracks. In consequence of which, they marched early on the morning, and on their arrival at Felton, his lordship generously ordered them refreshment, after which they proceeded, and on the 2d, arrived in Newcastle, where they were received with the greatest joy by the inhabitants, who expressed a heart-felt

pleasure in seeing a PERCY heading Northumbria's martial sons. His lordship marched at the head of them like a true veteran disdaining fatigue, all the road, excepting a mile or two after leaving Morpeth, occasioned by a heavy fall of rain.

1778 (*May 10*).—Susannah Corner, widow, aged 106 years, was buried at Hartlepool.

May 16.—A subscription was collected at Newcastle for the defence of that town, its port and neighbourhood, which amounted to £1,784. 15s., to which the corporation contributed £1,000.

May.—Died, at Sunderland, Mary Shield, aged 105 years. She retained the use of all her faculties until the time of her death.

This month, as the John and Mary, Captain Cummins, in the coal trade from Newcastle to London, was casting her ballast on Mr. Cookson's quay, at South Shields, a discovery was accidentally made of some silver coin being in it, when a number of people were set to work with riddles, and a great number of pieces of gold and silver coins were found, the latter were the shillings and sixpences of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and the former value about 17s. each, of the Henrys, and very fresh. The ballast was taken up in the river Thames.

July 23.—The right rev. John Egerton, lord bishop of Durham; confirmed 1,800 persons in St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle, and on the same day, the right worshipful John Hedley, esq., mayor, gave a sumptuous entertainment at the Mansion-house, to the bishop, and all the clergy present at the confirmation; his grace the duke of Northumberland, the Earls Percy, Darlington, Scarborough, and Fauconberg; the Lords Ravensworth, Algernon Percy, and Fielding, and several gentlemen of distinction.

August 5.—A deed was executed for the incorporation of a society, styled the Union Society, at North Shields, for the insurance of ships belonging to the port of Tyne, to continue for twenty-one years.

September 30.—The remains of a young woman were interred at All Saints' church, in Newcastle, who died in the 15th year of her age, and what was very extraordinary the body was six feet four inches in length.

October 10.—As some workmen were digging gravel for repairing the highways, near the Free School, at Haydon-bridge, they found the skeleton of a human body, of an extraordinary size: the skull was entire, and all the teeth in the jaws; two or three dropt out after it got air; the under jaw was very strong and had all the teeth except one in the middle, which seemed to have had some defect before death, though not out.

October 20.—Died, at the Low Fell, about two miles from Newcastle, Margaret Fenwick, in the 111th year of her age. She enjoyed an almost continued state of good health, until within a few days of her death, and retained her senses to the last. A few years before her death, she entertained on new-year's-day, at her own house, 107 of her descendants, consisting of her children, grand-children, and great-grand-children. She was also actuated

with a peculiar humour at every return of her birth-day, which was, to add to her stock a new pewter spoon; so that at her death, she had as many spoons as she was advanced in years.

1778 (*Oct. 28*).—A society for the insurance of ships belonging to Newcastle, had their first meeting, and became a body corporate.

The same day, a new dissenting meeting-house on Maling's Rigg, Sunderland, of which the rev. Mr. Heslop, was pastor, was opened by the Rev. James Murray, of Newcastle, to the satisfaction of a crowded audience.

November 6.—A new constructed machine for drawing coals by water was set a-going at Willington colliery, on the river Tyne. Its performances exceeded the most sanguine expectations, uniformly drawing 30 corves, 20 pecks each, in one hour, from a depth of 101 fathoms.

November 23.—The new theatre, at Sunderland, was opened with the tragedy of Percy and other entertainments.

This year, Mrs. Elizabeth Donnison left £1,500. for the purpose of founding a perpetual school for teaching poor girls belonging to the parish of Sunderland, reading and sewing. Thirty-six girls are taught and clothed; each girl receives a full suit of clothes at Christmas, part of a suit at midsummer, and two pairs of shoes.

Park chapel, Monkwearmouth, was built this year.

This year, a small corps of volunteers was raised in Stockton, for the protection of that town. A similar corps, called *Prussians*, had been raised at the time of the rebellion in 1745, for the same loyal purpose.

1779 (*Feb. 9*).—Died, at Kirkley, near Ponteland, in the 22d year of his age, Mr. John Kidd, teacher of the mathematics, one of the most surprising geniusses of his age (the celebrated Coughran and Wilkin excepted) that this, or perhaps any other nation could boast of.

February 15.—On the arrival of the news in Newcastle of the acquittal of Admiral Keppel,* there was a grand illumination in that town and Gateshead, which was kept up until two or three o'clock the next morning, during which time the bells were kept ringing, accompanied with frequent firing of guns. The next evening, an effigy of Sir Hugh Palliser, in the naval uniform, was set in a cart, with the common hangman, and proceeded through several streets of Newcastle, into the Bigg Market (Sir H. holding in his hand an *altered* log-book), where he was suspended for some time on a gallows, and afterwards consigned to the flames, amidst the acclamations of a great concourse of spectators. Soon after this ceremony, there were some other effigies brought to the place of execution, which were also thrown into the fire. During the whole transaction, the greatest order prevailed. On the 18th, the master and brethren of the Trinity-house, in Newcastle, resolved to present the Hon. Augustus Keppel, admiral of the blue, with

* Admiral Keppel having been charged by Sir Hugh Palliser with "neglect incapacity," &c., in the engagement with Count D'Orvilliers, off Ushant, on the 27th of July, 1778.

the freedom of that body, which was transmitted to him in an elegant gold box* at their joint expence, April 14th. March the 22d, the thanks of the mayor, the aldermen, sheriff, and common council of Newcastle, were ordered to be transmitted to Admiral Keppel, on his honourable acquittal, for his long and eminent services to his king and country. The letter was conveyed through the hands of Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., and for which the admiral returned his warmest thanks for the honour done him, in a letter addressed to Hugh Hornby, esq., mayor of Newcastle. Almost every town and village in the two counties, testified their joy by rejoicings and illuminations. At every place the effigy of Sir Hugh (with a log-book or *Morning Post* in his hand), was shot or hanged, and then burnt. At Durham, the effigy was placed for some time in the pillory.

1779 (*March 6*).—The Anti-gallican, privateer, of Newcastle, sailed from Shields on a six months' cruize against the enemies of Great Britain, being the first that ever sailed from that port, completely fitted and manned.

March 24.—The Heart of Oak, privateer, mounting 33 guns, belonging to Newcastle, sailed from Shields on a six months' cruize. She was extremely well fitted out, and carried 150 men.

April 10.—During the night, eight of the French prisoners made their escape from their place of confinement at Tynemouth, by breaking through the wall into an uninhabited house, and from thence escaping by a back door. As soon as their flight was discovered, parties of the Northumberland militia, to the number of 100 men, were detached to various parts of the country to apprehend them; and about nine o'clock the following morning, they were all taken in the neighbourhood of Seaton Delaval, and brought back to their old quarters, where they were handcuffed.

April 30.—Felling colliery, on the river Tyne, belonging to Charles Brandling, esq., was won, when he gave a plentiful dinner and a hearty regale to the workmen. And on the 4th of May he gave a grand entertainment at Gosforth-house on the occasion.

May 23.—About two o'clock in the morning, a French frigate of 24 guns, two cutters, and a schooner, appeared a little to the southward of Tynemouth, when they fell in with a large fleet of laden colliers and other vessels from Shields, several of which the enemy took. A small brig, called the *Mary*, mounting only three guns, fought her way through both the cutters for near an hour, and escaped, much shattered in her masts and rigging. A shameful neglect appeared on this occasion in the want of ammunition at the Spanish battery at the mouth of the river.

* The inscription on the lid of the box was as follows:—"The gift of the corporation of the Trinity-house, in Newcastle upon Tyne, to the Hon. Augustus Keppel, admiral of the blue, &c. &c., in testimony of their high regard for his many faithful and important services to his country, particularly for his gallant conduct on the 27th and 28th of July, 1778." The admiral returned a letter of thanks dated Audley Street, 21st of April, 1779.

1770 (*May 28*).—On the arrival of the news, at Alnwick Castle, of the celebration of the nuptials of Earl Percy, the cannon belonging that noble edifice, proclaimed aloud, in repeated volleys, the joyful tidings; on which Sir Alexander Gilmore, bart., Major Cathcart, and the other officers of the 10th regiment of foot, then in Alnwick, and the gentlemen of the town, in honour of that event, and to testify their esteem for the noble Earl Percy, met at the castle, where they were very politely received by Mr. Charlton and Mr. Maddison (governor of the castle), and elegantly entertained the whole evening with wines, punch, music, &c. The populace were also most plentifully regaled with good ale from the castle cellars. A prodigious large bon-fire was made near the gateway, and others in the streets and market-place; which, with the various illuminations in the different quarters of the town, afforded a most magnificent and pleasing scene.

This month, died at Lairchild, near Alnwick, George Bolam; aged 107 years, he retained his faculties to the last.

July 29.—Was launched at Howdon-dock, on the river Tyne, near North Shields, his Majesty's frigate, the *Syren*, of 28 guns, commanded by Captain Dodd, and was supposed to be one of the finest frigates in the navy.

August 14.—A fine full-length portrait of his Majesty George III., painted by Allan Ramsay (son of the Scots poet), a present to the town of Newcastle, by Sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., was put up in the Guild-hall, over the entrance into the Merchants' court. It is now at the west end of the Guild-hall, between the portraits of Charles II., and James II.

August 15.—About one o'clock in the afternoon, the coast of Northumberland, for upwards of thirty miles in extent, was greatly alarmed by an incessant firing of guns at sea, many being under an idea that the French were attempting a landing. The circumstance was, two French privateers, one of 18 and the other of 24 guns, both six-pounders, met with the *Content* armed ship, Captain Roy, belonging to government, of twenty guns, in company with a Greenlandman (whose hands she was upon the look out for), about two or three miles off Alnmouth, when a sharp engagement ensued, which lasted near two hours, and was visible all the time to the inhabitants of that place and neighbourhood. At last, the *Content* compelled the Frenchman to desist and stand off to sea with all the sail they could spread. Had the Greenlandman (the *Freelove* of Whitby), stood to the *Content*, the privateers would have been taken, as she mounted 14 six and four pounders, but being afraid of herself, she run close in shore. During the engagement the people of Alnmouth went to Alnwick, and applied to the duke of Northumberland's agent, who granted them two mounted cannons and a covered waggon from the castle, which they immediately conveyed to the coast, where the whole country joined them, and made a formidable appearance. An express was also sent to Morpeth to Lord Charles Montague, commander of the Huntingdon militia, who immediately beat to arms,

when the men turned out with the greatest alacrity, but just as they were going to march with two covered waggons with ammunition, another express arrived, with an account, that the Content had beat off the two privateers. On this occasion a very laudable spirit appeared in the young men at Morpeth, who mustered, and agreed to march with and support the militia to the utmost of their power, in the defence of their country. The Content had one man killed, named Lashells, belonging to Newcastle; two were wounded, one of them had both his arms shot off, and it was feared would lose his eyesight; the other was wounded in the arm.

1779 (*August 29*).—Died at Cramlington, in Northumberland, Mrs. Hall, aged 101 years, widow of Mr. Hall, who had been a considerable farmer there.

September 20.—The waggons began loading the coals from the new won colliery on Wallridge Fell, near Chester-le-street (being the first from that colliery belonging to William Jolliffe, esq.), to Fatfield staith. Some thousands of people attended, preceded by a band of music, colours flying, &c. In the afternoon they returned to the houses near the colliery, where an excellent cold dinner was provided, consisting of a sheep roasted whole, six sheep in quarters, and half an ox, which was washed down with 18 barrels of good ale. The bells at Chester were rung at intervals during the day.

November 9.—The following is an extract of a letter from Charlton, near Bellingham, in Northumberland, of this date—"It is no more extraordinary than true, that about five ducks of the half species, belonging to this place, being given to a carrier last Thursday (Nov. 4), in order to be sold at Newcastle; and, on being exhibited in the pullen-market, one of them made its escape, and the very identical duck arrived here on the morning of the third day after its flight." The distance is thirty miles.

November 15.—George Clark, a gormandizing eccentric, of Newcastle (well known by the name of *Skipper Clark*), was found dead in the Folly-chare, in Sandgate, Newcastle, through want and the inclemency of the weather. On searching his room a few days after his death, were found 95 guineas concealed in a large marrow-bone, also £24. in Portugal gold, in a different part of the room. He had been during one part of his life, bellman of Newcastle, and for many years before his death apparently the most meagre and indigent mendicant that ever travelled the streets. For his gormandizing exploits, see *Jan. 27th*, 1742, and *Dec. 25th*, 1749.

December 2.—In a very heavy gale of wind, many stacks of chimnies were blown down at Sunderland, and ships driven from their moorings. The east part of the church-yard wall was also blown down, and two men buried for some time in the ruins: one of them named Muckle, was killed on the spot. At the High Shield, near Hexham, a part of a house was blown down, and Mr. and Mrs. Bell, with four children, were under the ruins near half an hour; yet, providentially, they were all saved.

December 8.—About six o'clock in the evening, a fire broke out

in a flax-loft belonging to Mr. T. Kidd, at the foot of the passage leading to the meeting-house in the Groat-market, Newcastle, which, from its confined situation, and a spirit-cellar underneath it, exhibited an aspect truly alarming to the neighbourhood. It continued burning with great violence till after eight o'clock, and consumed almost all the flax, together with the roof and floors of the building. The liquors in the cellar were, by the exertions of the neighbours, happily preserved.

1779.—This year, Close House, in Northumberland, the seat of Calverley Bewicke, esq., was built. At this time, an old chapel, which stood on the site of the bow-window at the east end of the house was pulled down.

A presbyterian meeting-house on the Bank-top in the township of Westoe, near South Shields, was this year built. It was considerably enlarged in 1817.

This year a fine frigate, called the *Bellona*, was built for government at Stockton. Soon after she was launched, she was ordered for Hull, and on her first voyage from thence, was unfortunately lost in the *Texel*.

1780 (*March 10*).—Died, at Fatfield, near Chester-le-street, Mrs. Margaret Wilkinson, aged 107 years.

March 18.—About five o'clock in the morning, a fire broke out in Northumberland House, London, belonging to his grace the duke of Northumberland, which consumed all the apartments on that side next the Strand, and a great part of the gallery within the gates. It was with the greatest difficulty that the firemen could keep the flames from reaching the dwelling apartments, as the wind blew in that direction. About nine o'clock the fire was luckily got under. The rebuilding the wing which was burnt down was estimated at £10,000. besides the loss of great part of his grace's valuable library, and several capital pictures.

June 10.—Died, in the 100th year of his age, Matthew Swinhoe, of the Trinity-house, in Newcastle.

July 10.—Died, in an advanced age, in Newcastle, Mrs. Gomeldon, a gentlewoman of liberal education, a great adept in natural history and philosophy, and a generous benefactress to the poor. This lady published a work entitled "*The Medley*," for the benefit of the Lying-in-hospital, and for which she received the following compliment:—"The Governors of the Lying-in-hospital present their thanks to Mrs. Gomeldon for the large benefaction of £58. 10s. 7d. being the net produce arising from the publication of *The Medley*.—Newcastle, Dec. 3d. 1768."

October 2.—The right rev. John Egerton, lord bishop of Durham, was pleased to revive the ancient corporation of that city, by granting the burgesses a new charter—the old one granted by Bishop Matthew, in 1601, having for some years before, been dissolved, and the burgesses rendered incapable of acting under it,—when John Drake Bainbridge, esq. was elected mayor, and the following gentlemen aldermen: Thomas Bainbridge, Joseph Airey, Ralph Bowser, Richard Shuttleworth, John Lowther, Thomas

Dunn, John Potts, Christopher Hopper, John Starforth, William Kirton, John Hall, and William Archer, esqrs.; William Ambler, esq., recorder; Martin Wilkinson, esq., town-clerk. The greatest demonstrations of joy were shewn in the city upon this occasion. In the evening, the mayor gave a grand entertainment in the Town-hall, which was beautifully illuminated.

1780 (*Oct. 25*).—Being the anniversary of the accession of King George III., when he entered into the 21st year of his reign, was observed in Newcastle with unusual rejoicings. The 10th regiment of foot was reviewed on the Town-moor, by lieutenant-general Lord Adam Gordon. The regiment made a very fine appearance, and performed what was prescribed with precision. The right worshipful the mayor, aldermen, and sheriff, went to St. Nicholas' church, where the rev. Mr. Ellison preached an excellent sermon on the occasion. They afterwards returned to the Sandhill, when Sir George Savile's West Riding of Yorkshire militia were drawn up, and made three excellent vollies, when his Majesty's health was drunk, amidst the acclamations of the people, after which, Mr. Mayor gave a grand entertainment at the Mansion-house, to Lord Adam Gordon, commander-in-chief of the district, the earl of Scarborough, Sir George Savile, Lord Lumley, the officers of both corps, and many of the principal gentlemen in the neighbourhood, when the health of the day and other loyal healths were drunk, with a volley after each, from a party of the 10th regiment, who were quartered in Newcastle, drawn up in the court-yard; and his worship gave a guinea to each company to drink his Majesty's health. In the evening there was a genteel assembly.

November 11.—Died, at North Shields, Mrs. Ravens, aged 100 years, who, for upwards of 60 years, followed the business of mid-wife in that place.

November 13.—The workmen began to pull down the houses on the west side of the bridge at Newcastle, for the purpose of widening the entrance thereto.

December 9.—A shock of an earthquake was felt at Stockton and the neighbourhood.

This year, the old market-cross, in the city of Durham, erected by Thomas Emmerson, esq., of London, whose arms were placed on the west side, with the date 1617, becoming ruinous, the corporation ordered it to be taken down, and with the materials was erected the piazza where the markets are now held. This cross which had a large pillar in the middle ornamented with a dial, stood in the market place, near the pant or reservoir.

The old chapel, at Tweedmouth, was this year pulled down, and a new gothic building erected in its stead.

This year, died at Gateshead, Baron van Haake, a native of Silesia, who had come thither for the purpose of extracting tar from coal.

About this year, the church at Hunstanworth, Durham, which is a neat small structure, was almost entirely rebuilt.

About this year, abundance of copper nails, an iron hammer,

and other implements of a smith's shop, were found buried in small ashes of coal, within the foundation of a small circular building, on the side of Watling-street, near Low Wood-side, about three miles south of Ebechester. These were clearly Roman implements.

1781 (*Jan. 5*).—Died, at Newsom, near Northallerton, Ann Bell, aged 101 years.

March 13.—Was launched at Monkwearmouth shore, a beautiful frigate, called the Achilles, the sole property of James Stafford, esq., mounting 28 nine pounders.

April.—Died, at Broom, near Durham, Elizabeth Linsley, aged 104 years.

May 1.—The new Baths without the Westgate, Newcastle, were opened for the accommodation of the public. The buildings, area, and walks, being all elegantly and completely fitted up.

June 5.—The foundation stone of a new Mansion-house was laid at Howick, in Northumberland, the seat of Sir Henry Grey, bart. A great concourse of gentlemen attended the ceremony.

June 7.—The Argo, a new ship-of-war, pierced for 44 guns, was launched from Howdon dock. It was the largest vessel that had been launched on the river Tyne.

June 16.—The East York militia marched into camp at Ayton Banks, on Gateshead Fell, and, on the 18th, were joined by the South Lincoln militia from Tynemouth and Sunderland. The camp broke up on the 29th of October.

June.—A large whale, of the Grampus kind, came on shore at Easington, in the county of Durham. Its length was 18 yards, and breadth of the tail 7 yards. It became the property of Mr. Lambton, as lord of the manor.

August 20.—John Tully was executed at Durham, for robbing and violently beating (leaving him for dead) Mr. Mills, of Moor-mills.

This month, at Alnwick castle, his grace the duke of Northumberland was admitted to his freedom in the company of butchers, in the city of Durham, by a patrimonial right, when he made a present of a valuable piece of plate for the use of the said company. September 17th, on his grace's arrival at Durham from Alnwick castle, he was addressed by John Drake Bainbridge, esq., mayor of that city, who administered the oath of freedom to him of the said city, in the presence of the warden of the company of butchers, he was attended by the city *waits*, and saluted by an harmonious peal of bells; to the *waits* and bell-ringers he gave a handsome present, and a liberal donation to the poor.

October 10.—About twelve o'clock at night, a fire broke out in a brew-house, in the Market-place, at Rothbury, which burnt till three o'clock in the morning, and destroyed sixteen houses, mostly thatched.

November 20.—Margaret Tinkler, midwife, was executed near Durham, for a crime in acting or recommending certain means to destroy an infant, which was effected, and finally with the death

of Jane Parkinson, the mother. Before she left the gaol for execution, she confessed to a worthy clergyman, and Mr. Smith, surgeon, in Newcastle, then present, that she only recommended the means, but that the act itself was done by the deceased woman. On the dissection of Margaret Tinkler, at a place called Whitesmocks, near Durham, by Mr. Smith and Mr. Ward, surgeons, in Durham, two long black double wire pins, as used at that time in women's hair, were found in her belly, which it was supposed she had swallowed to destroy her life.

1781.—The chancel of Alnwick church, was this year repaired by the duke of Northumberland, and may be justly styled superb. He also gave a set of silver plate for the communion service.

This year, in the free stone quarries at Durham, which were wrought for the new bridge there, was found an entire fish, in figure like the bream, embodied in a large block of stone. On separating it, the fins and tail were broken off.

1782 (*Jan. 7*).—About twelve o'clock at night, a fire broke out in a ship in Sunderland harbour, close to Mr. Thornhill's quay, and having her full complement of stores on board, with the guns loaded, the inhabitants and soldiers could give her no assistance, so that as the fire proceeded, her guns were discharged, and at last it reached the powder-room, when she blew up.

January 28.—Died, the Rev. James Murray, minister of the High-bridge meeting-house, Newcastle. He was the author of "*Sermons to Ministers of State*," "*Sermons to Asses*," "*History of the Churches of England and Scotland*," "*History of the American War*," "*Travels of the Imagination*," "*Lectures to Lords Spiritual*," "*Lectures on Genesis*," "*Lectures on the Revelation of John the Divine*," and many other curious and valuable publications. Mr. Murray was a native of Roxburghshire, in Scotland. There are engraved portraits of this divine prefixed to his "*American War*," &c.

February 19.—Died, at the Mill-house, near Haltwhistle, Mrs. Margaret Smith, aged 100 years.

February 27.—A very high wind blew down the roof of the flint glass-house, belonging to Messrs. Williams and Co., in the Close, Newcastle, which, falling upon the furnace, soon caught fire, and burnt with great violence, until the whole building, except a gable end, was destroyed.

March 4.—Died, in the Friars, Newcastle, John Manners, shoemaker, aged 107 years.

March 10.—There was a great fall of snow, and next morning a very heavy rain, with a strong fresh wind, which carried off the snow, and raised the river Tyne higher than ever remembered, except in the flood in 1771. The rapidity of the current threw down Ridley-hall bridge, five arches of Hexham bridge, and left the remaining arches in a very tottering situation; and also rendered Haydon-bridge impassible. One man lost his life, who by imprudently attempting to catch some wood in a rivulet, near Simonburn, fell into the river and was drowned. As Mr. Harbottle of Hexham Grange, his son, and two of his men, were

endeavouring to save some sheep grazing on the Haughs, the water surrounded them, and they, by getting on to a tree (on which they sat from nine in the morning till eight at night before they were relieved), narrowly escaped with their lives. Upwards of fifty light colliers, lying under Tynemouth castle, were obliged to cut away or slip their anchors, and drove out to sea.

1782 (*March 15*).—Was launched at Monkwearmouth Shore, a beautiful frigate called the *Bucephalus*, mounting 32 guns, belonging to James Stafford, esq., built by Mr. Thomas Dixon, of that place.

This month, died at Darlington, Durham, John Nichols, a labouring man, aged 109 years.

May 20.—Died, at his house, in the Bigg-market, Newcastle, John Bover, esq., captain in the navy, and regulating captain of that port. May 23d, his remains were interred with all the solemnity of military honour, in St. Nicholas' church, as a testimony of his meritorious services to his king and country in the following manner:—the East York and Westmorland militias, with their bands joined, marched from the parade to the house of the deceased, the rank and file then divided, and lined the street to the church, when the procession began, with the grenadiers (muskets reversed), beadles of St. John's and St. Nicholas' with covered staves, bands of music playing the dead march, drums covered, boat-swain, crew (six) of his barge, two and two, mutes, his servant, CORPSE, pall borne by Captain Pemble, Captain Sinclair of the Queen, and six other navy officers in their uniforms, Lieutenant Adamson, R. N., chief mourner, other mourners, the ensigns of the militia, and of the 26th regiment at Tynemouth barracks (Lord Adam Gordon's), lieutenants, captains, colonels, General Beckwith, and Lord Adam Gordon, the sheriff, aldermen, and recorder, two and two, the right worshipful the mayor, town marshal, two serjeants at mace, an officer, a battalion. After the interment, the grenadiers which were drawn up in the church-yard, fired three volleys. Thus did navy, military, and civil, with many thousands of people of all ranks, with the most minute decorum, pay the last tribute to the remains of a good and gallant officer, and a worthy man.

This month, on the arrival of the news of Admiral Rodney having gained a complete victory over the French fleet in the West Indies, there were great rejoicings at all the towns and most of the villages in Durham and Northumberland.

May 21.—Died, at Hurworth, Durham, in the 82d year of his age, that great and self-taught mathematician, William Emerson, whose name and writings were so well known to the public. His person was robust, rough, and masculine; his dress was slovenly and mean; his manners studiously vulgar and abrupt; his way of life as singular as his person, frequently descending to the meanest labour and occupations; ale was his favourite liquor, and his diet was low, though he had a fortune sufficient to procure him all the comforts of life. Amidst these singularities he was acknowledged to be the first genius of the age in mathematics, in which line he

was communicative and liberal, and although he would assume an air of negligence touching his abilities, as if not conscious of them, he had infinite pride therein. He affected an air of infidelity in religious matters, and was an example to the vulgar not a little reprehensible. He was a great contributor to the Ladies' Diary under the signature of *MERONES*, and for many years unknown, till a transposition of letters discovered his name. Mr. Cloudsley, of Darlington, had a fine portrait of him in crayons, for which he sat to Mr. Sykes.

1782 (*June 24*).—Died, of the influenza, at Stella, in the parish of Ryton, Margaret Bowey, aged 102 years.

June 25.—The East York militia marched from Newcastle into camp, at Ayton Banks, on Gateshead Fell, and were shortly after joined by the North York militia, commanded by Sir Ralph Milbanke. The camp broke up on the 11th of November.

June.—Died, in the poor house, at Gateshead, Mary Cramer, aged 120 years.

In the summer of this year, a man near 80 years of age, and his wife, made one of the caverns under Marsden rocks, near South Shields, their place of residence. In the early part of his life, he had been a miner, at Allenheads, but having removed to Shields, to avoid the charge of house-keeping, he and his wife formed the resolution to retire to one of these caves, which they furnished. The romantic situation of the place, and the singularity of the thing, drew numbers of people to visit them, whom they accommodated with refreshments; even ladies and gentlemen in carriages drove to the place, and partook of the old couple's cheer.

The once august castle of Newcastle, advertised to be let as a wind-mill!!! *September 14*, 1782.

"A WIND-MILL in the centre of the Town of Newcastle."

"To be let, the OLD CASTLE, in the Castle Garth, upon which, with the greatest convenience and advantage, may be erected a WIND-MILL, for the purpose of grinding Corn, and Bolting flour, or making Oil, &c. There is an exceeding good Spring of Water within the Castle, which renders it a very eligible situation for a Brewery, or any Manufactory that requires a constant supply of water. The proprietor; upon proper terms, will be at a considerable part of the expence. Enquire of Mr. Fryer, in Westgate-street, Newcastle."

October 9.—A fine new frigate, called the *Madona*, was launched at Howdon dock, upon the river Tyne, which was capable of mounting above 30 guns.

October.—Died, at Morpeth, Barbara Softley, aged 105 years.

October.—An explosion of gas took place in Wallsend colliery, by which one man lost his life. The coal being set on fire, the colliery was drowned up to extinguish it.

This year, Jarrow church was repaired and altered. Some curious inscriptions were discovered on this occasion:—a mutilated sculptured stone, subject, an archer shooting at a stag, supposed to be Roman; two other Roman stones inscribed in bold Roman capitals; an

oblong grave stone with a crosier and a key sculptured on it, supposed to have covered the grave of some abbot or cellarer of this monastery, and various others; but the most valuable was that found built up in the north wall, recording the dedication of this monastery. *See the year 681.* Besides these, two square pavements of Roman bricks were discovered, when the course of the road was altered near the east-end of Jarrow Row, and foundations of buildings, bearing all the marks of Roman masonry, have frequently been found in the fields on the north side of the church.

1782.—On repairing Tynemouth Castle this year, for a place of arms and depository of stores, for the better protection of the port of Tyne, and of the adjacent coasts of Durham and Northumberland, Major Durnford discovered four Roman altars with inscriptions, buried in the foundation of the ancient monastery, the beautiful ruins of which are now crumbling rapidly to their base. The altars are in the possession of the Society of Antiquaries, London.

This year, the Fauld Pit at Gateshead exploded, by which accident four lives were lost. These unfortunate men were all that were down the pit at the time of the explosion. Three of the bodies were got, the other *still remains in the mine.* The coals worked here were called the Hopewell. This colliery was on the east side of the High Street of Gateshead, in what is called the High Ward.

This year, died at Newcastle, Mary Driffield, aged 103 years.

1783 (*Feb. 1.*)—The Newcastle Fire-office for the assurance of houses, buildings, goods, wares, and merchandises, from loss or damage by fire, was first opened in apartments at the head of the Side, in that *time town.*

February 6.—Died, in London, Lancelot Brown, esq., (generally called *Capability Brown*), the celebrated landscape gardener. He was born at Kirkharle, in Northumberland, in 1716, and left his native county in 1739. He was employed by Lord Cobham, in improving the grounds at Stowe, and afterwards at Richmond, Blenheim, Wimbledon, &c. In 1759 he was appointed head gardener to King George II., at Hampton Court, and in 1779 he served the office of High Sheriff for the counties of Huntingdon and Cambridge.

February 13.—The sailors at Sunderland having got liberty to go on shore, and having a list of persons who had informed against them or their brethren, assembled in a great body, went to the houses of the informers, some of whom had luckily left their houses. Those they found, they mounted on a pole, and carried them through the principal streets exposed to the insults of an enraged populace; the women, in particular, bedaubed them plentifully with dirt, &c. Some constables interposing, had their staffs taken from them and themselves beat. About six o'clock in the evening their numbers had so increased, that the drums of the North York militia beat to arms, the regiment paraded the streets, when the mob dispersed. But the next morning they assembled in greater numbers, and were proceeding to extremities, when the military


again appearing, with two justices at their head, the whole dispersed.

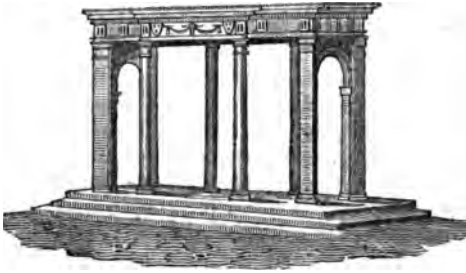
1783 (*March 8*).—Died at *Hallowell*, near *Seaton Delaval*, in *Northumberland*, *Mary Sharp*, a widow, aged 109 years.

March 26.—Died, in *Gatehead*, *Mrs. Mary Tate*, aged 116 years.



March.—A pair of crows built their nest upon the top of the tube of the vane on the Exchange at Newcastle. The above representation is copied from an original sketch. It is very different indeed to that given by Mr. Brand in his history of Newcastle, which seems to have no support whatever from the spire, and is utterly at variance with his description, for the place on which he places his crow's nest is stationary, and consequently cannot turn with the wind. The following correct and interesting description, together with a sketch of the spire, &c. taken at the time were very kindly given to me by a gentleman (since deceased), who possessed an original account of the progress of the crows, and which was never before published. "During the progress of the work, the crows experienced many interruptions. Sometimes when their nest was half erected, it would be destroyed by other crows in their absence, seemingly with the most inveterate hostility, to prevent which, one remained as sentry over the building, while the other was abroad in search of forage or materials; till at length, after many severe conflicts, by dint of courage, industry, and perseverance, they overcame every difficulty and finished their plan; in order to understand which, it must be observed, that the vane was affixed to a hollow metallic tube which turned round on an iron

spire fixed in the centre of the summit of the pinnacle, and round this (at the top and bottom) was an ornamented scroll, thus,  upon which, with very great art and ingenuity, the crows laid their foundation:—viz. spars and rafters whose ends rested upon each other, and then others upon them, but somewhat longer, especially on the side of the tube directly opposite to the vane, which was intended to contain the body of the nest; then smaller pieces interwoven therewith, and then wattled together pretty tightly round the tube, so that the nest turned round with the vane, and let the wind blow from whatever quarter, it was continually direct against the nest, still supported on the opposite side by the spire and tube before mentioned, so that the wind could never discompose it or blow it down, unless it had blown down the vane and perhaps the pinnacle also. It might therefore be deemed a master-piece in mechanics and architecture. It was remarked, that in the succeeding year there was a severe storm of frost and snow, when the Tyne was three times frozen over in one winter, a circumstance not before remembered by the oldest person living, during which the crows had a comfortable habitation, and having prolonged their residence there for some years, they, all on a sudden, without any visible cause or molestation, quitted their wonderful building, and never resorted to it again. A short time subsequent to their departure, the exchange took fire, which, had they remained, might probably have destroyed them as well as their curious erection." They attempted to build it again the year following, but other crows, with the most determined opposition, prevented them; however, in the years 1785, 1786, 1787, and 1788, the same crows built on the same singular place, and succeeded each year in hatching and rearing their young.



1783 (*May 15*).—The Scale or Kale Cross, at the foot of the Side, Newcastle, was begun to be rebuilt under the direction of Mr. David Stephenson, architect, at the expense of Sir Matthew White Ridley, bart. In August 1786, the top was decorated with the figure of a lion couchant in the front, and vases at the corners. Being considered an inconvenience to the street, it was taken down in 1807, and presented by the corporation to its donor, and was set up in his grounds at Blagdon. This cut represents it previous to the decorations being added.

(1783 *July 7*).—Died, at Durham, in the 104th year of his age, William Towson, who had been a foot soldier under the duke of Marlborough.

July 21. There was a violent storm of thunder and lightning; two cows were killed by the lightning on Gateshead Fell, and at

Ryal, in Northumberland, an old man sitting on a pole across a gateway, was struck instantly dead. On one side of him a young man sitting on the ground was also struck, but received no material injury, one of his legs was slightly burnt, and the clothes upon him were torn the whole length; a link of his watch chain was melted, and a part of it soldered to his watch; a dog lying near was also struck dead.

1783.—This month was finished the celebrated Tower at Brislee, near Alnwick, built at the expense of his grace the duke of Northumberland. The foundation of this tower was laid near five years before, upon the top of a lofty hill, within two miles of Alnwick. The whole height of the tower is ninety feet.

August 2. A dreadful storm of thunder and lightning, accompanied by hail of an uncommon size, occurred at Stockton and the neighbourhood. The hailstones were, in fact irregular pieces of ice, each of them having a sort of an eye, or place from whence another seemed to have been broken off near the centre. They measured from three to five inches in circumference. The damage to the windows at Stockton was estimated at £150. Both before and after the storm, the air was uncommonly sultry. A farmer near Portrack happening to have a loaded gun in the house at the time, fitted one of the hailstones to his piece, and fired it through an inch deal.

August 6.—Died, at Sedgfield, Durham, William Hall, formerly a farmer, aged 101 years.

August 18.—Robert Storey was executed at Durham, for the murder of Thomas Idle, better known by the name of "*Cockle Geardy*," from his going about selling cockles. Being in a public house where Idle had incautiously shewn several guineas, Storey way-laid him for the purpose of murder and robbery.

September 24.—Died, in Sandgate, Newcastle, John Wilson, labourer, aged 105 years.

This month, as some workmen were digging up the foundation of a house at Wooler, which had belonged to the earl of Derwentwater, they found several crowns, half-crowns, shillings, and sixpences. Some of the coins were of great antiquity.

November 5.—The new Theatre at North Shields was opened with a new occasional *prelude*, written by Mr. Cawdell, and the comedy of the *Bold Stroke for a Husband*, (never before having been acted in the country,) with a new musical farce.

November 11.—A bull was baited in one of the principal streets of Alnwick, and during that brutal performance, the poor enraged animal threw down two tradesmen of that place, one of whom had his leg broken, and the other received a most violent wound on his head.

November 15.—Died, at his lodgings near the Forth, Newcastle, the Rev. Mr. Joseph Cooke. Mr. Cooke was the son of a shoemaker, at Hexham, and born in the year 1719. He had his education as King's scholar, at Durham school, and afterwards entered in Queen's college Oxford, in which he took the degree of M. A.

In due time, he was ordained, and not long after, was the curate of Embleton, in Northumberland. Here a turn for mysteries led him to study mystic writers, and he soon caught the same enthusiastic flame which warmed them; and was looked on as a second Jacob Behmen,* though he had some notions peculiar to himself. For here he publicly as well as privately, maintained, that the christian dispensation did not abrogate the Mosaic institutions, and actually supported his doctrine of the necessity of circumcision, by practising it upon himself. It was on this occasion that he assumed the names of Adam Moses Emanuel, and ever after constantly signed himself A. M. E. Cooke; even when he became more cool and temperate, and less under the influence of his former extraordinary notions. While he was curate at Embleton, he also made an attempt to follow the example of Christ in fasting forty days, and, what is astonishing indeed! had resolution and strength to fast seventeen days without a taste of any thing whatever, and for twelve days more, to allow himself each day only a trifling crust of bread and a draught of water. In short so strange were the notions he broached, and so extravagant his behaviour, that he incurred the displeasure and reprehension of his superiors in the church, and was by them soon discharged from his curacy. On this our *Jewish Christian*, in his canonicals, and with a long beard, the growth of which he had for some time encouraged, went to London, where he commenced author, and published many pieces of unintelligible jargon, in politics and divinity, &c. two plays, and many whimsical projects, amongst others, one for collecting all the markets into one grand subterraneous one, under Fleet-street. It was here he first signalized himself by street-preaching, which he afterwards very frequently practised wherever he went, particularly in this town, and in Oxford, where after hearing the University sermon in St. Mary's, he used to give the text a *second* discussion in the street, in which he generally took excessive liberties with the first. And strange as his sentiments and his expressions were, larded with long, though faithful, extracts from the Classics and the Hebrew Bible, he had always, in the latter place, a numerous, respectable, and attentive audience. When in London, he conceived the odd notion, that all the good things of this world should be common, and even this notion he in some degree put in practice. For he would go into a coffee-house in the morning, and take to his own use the first muffin and pot of coffee he saw set on any of the tables. The strangeness of his appearance, or the knowledge of his character, used to screen him from the expostulations on the part of the gentlemen, for whom the breakfast was intended, nor did he meet with interruption from the waiters till he had finished, and after saying a short grace, was going towards the door without discharging the reckoning. The

* Jacob Behmen was a mystic philosopher of Germany, who treated of the creation of the world, the nature of God, of man, of animals, plants, &c. &c. most voluminously, but in so obscure and difficult a style, that even his own disciples could not understand him.

coffee-house master would then expostulate, while he would prove by *mode and figure*, that the good things of this world were common; the bucks would then form a ring for the disputants, till the one would be obliged to give up the contest, unable to make objections to arguments, brought by the other from the *Talmudists*, and from Hebrew, Greek, and Latin authors. After he had gone on for some time in this eccentric manner in London, the charity of some clergymen got him sent to Bedlam, where he staid two or three years. When discharged from thence, he travelled over the greatest part of Scotland on foot without a single farthing in his pocket; subsisting as he says in one of his pamphlets, by the contributions of the well-disposed. He then went to Ireland, and, after travelling over the greatest part of that kingdom on foot, went to Dublin in 1760, where he was kindly entertained, for some time, by the society of Trinity College. When he returned to England, he visited Oxford, where much notice was taken of him by some gentlemen of distinction, particularly by the head of one of the colleges, with whom he lodged. He, about this time, formed the project of visiting the interior parts of North America; a project, which, till within a few years before his death, he wished to put in execution, but never could from the state of his finances. After living in London many years, he came down into this country, and, until a few years before his death, subsisted on a pension allowed him by the "Society of the Sons of the Clergy;" amusing himself with writing odes, letters, epigrams, strictures of one kind or other, and, which was his last undertaking, a plan for the alteration of St. Nicholas' church in Newcastle, and a project for making, what he called, a grand universal church upon true evangelical principles.

1783 (*Nov. 17*).—William Alexander was executed on the Town Moor, Newcastle, for the forgery of a bill of exchange, purporting to be drawn by Samuel Jenkinson, of New York, on Messrs. Grey and Ogilvie, London. He was carried from Newgate to the place of execution in a mourning coach (provided by the sheriff, Mr. Soulsby), attended by the Rev. Mr. Brown, ordinary of Newgate, and the Rev. Mr. Grant, a dissenting minister; on his road, and after his arrival there, he read with the greatest composure the 53d chapter of Isaiah. He alighted from the coach, and ascended the cart with the greatest firmness, and proceeded to address the spectators from a written form which he had previously composed. After some time spent in prayer, singing psalms, and other devout exercises, he was plunged into eternity. After hanging the usual time the body was cut down, put into a coffin, and conveyed back to the prison, where it was lodged till the evening of the 19th, when it was decently interred in St. Andrew's church-yard, the funeral service being performed by the Rev. Mr. Brown, and was attended by the sheriff, Dr. Rotheram, the Rev. Mr. Grant, and Mr. Harle. A copy of his speech was given to the sheriff, and afterwards printed, as were likewise his meditations, &c.

November 19.—At night, the Freemason's lodge at Sunderland,

was discovered to be on fire; and before it was extinguished, all the furniture, pictures, &c. were consumed, and the house adjoining very much damaged.

1783 (*Nov. 24*).—A fire broke out in Field-well house, near Gateshead, belonging to Mr. W. Wilson, farmer. The house and furniture, the byers and barns, which were full of corn, and many implements of husbandry were destroyed.

December 4.—A fire broke out at Dipton-mill, near Hexham, which entirely consumed the same, together with a drying-kiln, the dwelling-house and out-houses adjoining it. A part of the household furniture was, with difficulty, saved from the flames.

This year, a fine Roman altar, with an inscription, was discovered at Risingham, in Northumberland. Innumerable Roman antiquities have been found at and near this place.

The church at Whalton, in Northumberland, was this year repaired, and parapets and pinnacles added to the tower. This church is very ancient.

The outer light-house on the Fern Islands was swept away by the sea, in a heavy storm at south-east.

The old White Cross in Newgate Street, Newcastle, was pulled down.

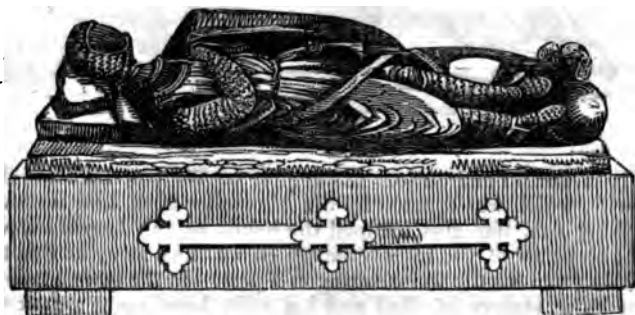
Died, John Sylvester, of Tynemouth, aged 107 years.

This year, a subscription was commenced, which, in a short time, amounted to a large sum, for the purpose of converting St. Nicholas' Church, in Newcastle, into a sort of cathedral, but the curious will ever regret the change, as by it nearly all the fine old funeral monuments, &c. were destroyed. The following particular account of this dilapidation is from Alderman Hornby's MS. notes to Brand's History of Newcastle. "In the year 1783, a plan was proposed, which was carried into execution in 1784 and 1785, for removing the place for public service to that part of this church which is east of the cross aisle. The old pews were entirely removed, and the new ones made uniform, and of oak. The organ was brought to front the east, and the west end of the church was separated by an inclosure, as in cathedral churches. The old stalls which were formerly in the choir, were placed in St. Mary's porch, which was fitted up for daily prayers, and the inclosure of St. George's porch removed, and a gallery for the grammar school boys, and below it seats for the charity children, were fixed in its room. In doing this, it became necessary to take up all the grave stones in the east part, and a resolution was taken not to permit any burials there in future. Those who had burial places were mostly satisfied with others assigned to them in that part where the old pews were removed from; but by these means, you are informed of the deposit of remains as in that place, which lie in other parts of the church. The curious large old stone, with the inscription to the memory of John Bennett, master of the ordnance in the north, which was in the inclosed part of the choir, now lies near the south porch, and, indeed, very narrowly escaped being included in a very indecent and unjustifiable depredation committed

by the churchwardens, who sold all the old tomb-stones, which were either not claimed, or belonged to families now extinct, (many of which were very large and of blue marble), to a person* who was building a house in the New Street,† and who buried them in the foundation. The stone coffin formerly found in this church, as well as that found in the tower on the bridge, underwent the same fate. The mutilated monument of Sir George Selby and his lady was disposed of in the same manner, as was also the ancient one of George Car, the inscription upon which and part of the ornament at the west end, were accidentally rescued by me, and are now in the garden behind my house in Pilgrim Street. The old cross-legged knight was preserved by Mr. Fisher, clerk of St. Nicholas, and now lies under one of the arches on the south side of the church."



Bourne says, "Under the south window of this porch, (St. Mary's) lies the effigies of a man with his legs across, and his dog at his feet, having his escutcheon of arms and sword. This, we are informed, was the fashion of burying those only who took upon them the cross, and were marked with the badge of the cross for sacred warfare, in recovering the Holy Land from the Turks. He is supposed to have been one of the family of the Scroopes."



This cut represents it in its present state, having been cleaned and raised upon a pedestal at the expence of the late Rev. John Smith, vicar of Newcastle, and who caused it to be replaced in St. Mary's porch under the reading desk.

* Christopher Blacket, Post-master.

† Moseley Street.

The curious old monument to the memory of the Maddison family has survived the various dilapidations which this church has undergone. This monument, which is of marble, and affixed to a pillar in the south aisle, has been painted and gilded. It contains at the top the images of Faith, Hope, and Charity, with their usual attributes; below these are the statues of three persons of each sex, in suppliant attitudes, and on their knees. Those at the desk, as represented in the following wood cut, are evidently meant for Henry Maddison, and Elizabeth his wife. Underneath these are sixteen smaller statues, representing their ten sons and six daughters. Henry Maddison was mayor of Newcastle in 1629. He died July 14th, 1634, aged 60 years. There is a beautiful series of shields on this monument, pointing out the inter-marriages of the Maddison family.



The beautiful and curious monument of William Hall and Jane his wife, which was erected by Sir Alexander Hall, *knt.* their only surviving son, has also escaped the hands of the despoilers, with the exception of the inscription which was torn away at this time to make room for the wainscoting of a pew. In the centre is represented the statues of Hall and his wife, kneeling at a desk with books upon it, (their hands are broken off as shewn in the following wood cut), below these are six smaller statues, supposed to represent their son and five daughters, also kneeling at a desk. The inscription, which had been tossed about among the lumber in St. George's porch, was, by the Rev. Archdeacon Singleton, at his first visitation, ordered to be restored to its original place where it

now is. William Hall was mayor of Newcastle in 1624. He died in July 1631, aged 63 years. These are the only ancient monuments worth notice now remaining in the church; many elegant ones have, since this alteration, been erected.



1784 (*Jan. 14*).—Died, in Newcastle, Mr. Thomas Slack, who, for many years had carried on with credit and respectability, the business of a printer, bookseller, and publisher of the Newcastle Chronicle. He was the author of *The British Negotiator*, *Banker's Guide*, and other books of calculation, published in the name of *S. Thomas*.

March.—As some men were ploughing in the lands of Swaites-hall, near Barnardcastle, they turned up several pieces of silver, which, upon examination, were found to be coins of Henry I., which had in all probability lain in the ground near 600 years, and what was very remarkable, a tradition of treasure being hid there, had been handed down in the family for ages.

April 5.—The master and brethren of King George's lodge, Sunderland, accompanied by a great number of brethren from the neighbouring lodges, went in procession to lay the foundation stone of the Phoenix lodge. After the usual ceremonies, coins of his majesty George III., and an elegant coronation medal of Queen Charlotte, were deposited in the stone, and above them a copper-plate on which was engraved an elegant Latin inscription. April 5th, 1785, the lodge was dedicated with great solemnity.

May 10.—Workmen began to pull down the buildings in the Black Swan entry, and Bird in Bush Yard, on the west side of Pilgrim-street, Newcastle, for the purpose of forming Mosley-street.

May 16.—A fire broke out in the pottery at St Anthony's, on the river Tyne, Newcastle, belonging to Messrs. King and Co., but

was got under after damaging a great quantity of earthenware and part of the building.

1784 (*May 17*).—Workmen began to pull down the house which formed an angle between the foot of the Side and the Sandhill, nearly opposite to the foot of the Butchers' Bank, Newcastle, for the purpose of widening that very narrow and dangerous turning.

May 18.—A fire broke out in a joiner's shop in the Painter Heugh, Newcastle, occasioned by an oil pot having been carelessly left on the fire, which boiling over, entirely consumed the shop, and every thing it contained.

May 27.—A fire broke out in a joiner's shop, down an entry in the Flesh Market, Newcastle, which entirely destroyed the same with its contents.

June 1.—The brewery and malting at Whitley, near North Shields, belonging to Mr. Hall, took fire and were entirely consumed.

June 18.—A fire broke out in the shop of Mr. Kidd, flax-dresser, in the Groat Market, Newcastle. It was somewhat remarkable, that in the course of a few years, Mr. Kidd had a warehouse entirely consumed, and his shop twice on fire, but extinguished without much damage.



August.—The New White Cross, in Newgate Street, Newcastle, was finished. It was built on the plan, and under the inspection of Mr. David Stephenson, architect. It was ornamented on the four sides with the arms of the mayor, magistrates, and sheriff. It was in considerable forwardness, when the inhabitants in the neighbourhood petitioned the common council to have a clock in it, which being agreed to, the present turret was adopted in lieu of the original design. This cut represents it prior to its removal to the New Butchers' Market in 1807, where it now is, but in an altered form.

1784 (*August 9*).—A balloon was set off from the Sandhill, Newcastle, by Mr. Clarke, jun., for the benefit and enlargement of an eminent teacher, then in Newgate, for a debt contracted when in a bad state of health. It continued in view about ten minutes, when it disappeared by its great elevation. The sum collected amounted to £33. which answered the intended purpose.

August 26.—James Chambers and William Collins, two sailors, the former a Scotsman, the other an Irishman, were executed on the Town Moor, near Newcastle, for the robbing of Mr. Jasper Anderson, of Coxlodge, near his own house, on the 18th of the preceding November. They both appeared exceeding penitent, and perfectly reconciled to their fate; they were conveyed to the place of execution in two carts, Chambers attended by the Rev. Mr. Laidlaw, a minister of the church of Scotland, and Collins, by the Rev. Mr. Cordell, a Roman Catholic clergyman.

September 2.—As some workmen were digging under a house in the Old Flesh-market, Newcastle, they discovered, at the depth of 18 inches from the surface, two human skulls, and several other bones, which had apparently belonged to full grown men or women.

October 30.—Died, at Birtley, in the parish of Chester-le-Street, Elizabeth Errington, aged 104 years.

November 23.—A fire broke out in a bakehouse, at Monkwearmouth-shore, which entirely consumed the same, two houses adjoining, and much damaged a third.

November.—An explosion took place in Wallsend colliery, by which three men lost their lives. Another explosion occurred in December, when two men lost their lives. These explosions were supposed to have taken place at the spark of the steel mill, by the light of which the people were working in the shaft. The bodies were not recovered for several months. In repairing the shaft after these explosions, the mode of throwing the rays of the sun down a shaft by a mirror, so as to light it, was accidentally discovered in the following manner:—while the people were working in the shaft, at about 80 fathoms from the surface, a carpenter was employed to do something at the head framing immediately above the mouth of the shaft, and in using his saw, he turned the bright blade of it accidentally, so as to throw a pencil of the sun's rays suddenly down the pit, to the great terror of the workmen below, who thought the pit had fired again. The cause of their alarm being, however, soon discovered, it suggested the idea of applying a mirror to throw the light of the sun down the shaft, which mode of lighting has since been frequently resorted to when other lights could not be used.

This year, died at Alnwick, Hugh Rowland Hughes, aged 115 years. He had had four wives, by whom he had 23 children.

1785 (*Jan. 15*).—A sheep belonging to Mr. Robertson of Balam-moor-house, was dug out of the snow alive, after having lain six weeks covered over a very considerable thickness.

February 6.—Died, in London, Matthew Duane, esq., the most

eminent conveyancer of his time. He was Fellow of the Royal and Antiquarian Societies, and a trustee of the British Museum. Being a skilful collector, he left behind him a complete series of Syrian, Phœnician, Grecian, Roman, and other coins. He was the friend and patron of the polite and fine arts. The body arrived in Newcastle on the 26th of February, and the same evening was interred in St. Nicholas' church, where a neat mural monument is placed to his memory.

1785 (*May 9*).—Under this date, the following paragraph appears in Mr. James Fordyce's "Chronology," London, 1823:—"A riot among the seamen at Shields; the riot act read, the military fired, and nearly sixty persons killed"!!! This is most wonderful information, and as such an occurrence is not known to have taken place at Shields, I have printed it in italics.

May 26.—Died, in the alms-house, at Bishopwearmouth, Daniel Stuart, a travelling bookseller, aged 105 years. He was supposed to be the oldest bookseller, or *flying stationer*, in Great Britain. He travelled the country and the town of Sunderland, within half a year of his death, and what was very remarkable, he never made use of spectacles.

June 12.—The church of St. Nicholas, Newcastle, after undergoing great alterations, was opened for divine service.

June.—An explosion occurred in Wallsend colliery, by which one man lost his life. This was the first explosion which was distinctly known to have taken place at the steel mill. Some doubt remained up to this time as to whether the fire damp would explode at the spark of the steel mill or not; but the fact was clearly ascertained on this occasion, as the person, John Selkirk, who was "playing" the mill at the time survived the accident.

July 25.—John Winship, a farmer, in the neighbourhood of Monkwearmouth, was executed at Durham, having been convicted of poisoning his maid-servant by administering certain drugs to produce abortion. His body was given to the surgeons for dissection, and was opened by Mr. Wilkinson, of Sunderland, who, in the presence of many gentlemen of the faculty, delivered a lecture on the contents of the *cranium, thorax, and abdomen*.

August 1.—Four persons were executed at Durham, viz.:—William Hamilton, and Isabella his reputed wife, for breaking into and robbing the house of John Smith, of Stobbalee, near Witton Gilbert, and cruelly using the said John Smith and his wife; Thomas Elliott, for horse-stealing; and Duncan Wright, for house-breaking.

August 16.—William Graham, for house-breaking, and William Cockburn, for horse-stealing, were executed at Morpeth, pursuant to their sentences.

September 8.—Late at night, one of the sugar-houses of Messrs. Forster and Co., in the Close, Newcastle, was discovered to be on fire; and about two o'clock on the following morning, the flames burst forth from several parts of the building with such dreadful fury, that the prospect became in a moment the most shocking and

tremendous, imagination can conceive. Every attempt to stop its progress appeared for some time to be fruitless. The ringing of the fire-bell, procured the almost immediate assistance of all the fire-engines kept in the town, which, by the exertions of the firemen and other inhabitants, were rendered of the most important service in preventing the flames from communicating to the surrounding buildings. In a few hours the whole of that extensive erection, the sugar-house fronting the river, with a great part of the valuable stock, was reduced to ashes. Mr. Clapham's brewery, adjoining, unavoidably shared the same fate, and considerable damage was also done to the buildings on the opposite side.

1785 (Oct. 16).—Died, at the Grange, Miss Ann Allan, aged 68. On the 25th her remains were interred in the family vault at Darlington, accompanied by the tears of the poor, and the lamentations of all. The pall was supported by the two Mr. Ardens, the hon. Mr. Vane, Sir John Eden, Sir Henry Vane, Mr. Tempest, Mr. Robinson, and Mr. Nesham. A dole was given to upwards of 9,000 poor people. The late eminent antiquary, George Allan, Esq., F. S. A. "In gratitude to her memory," had a portrait of this lady engraved for private distribution. It is engraved by Collyer from a painting by Hay, and exhibits a fine-looking old lady, seated in a chair, with a book in her hand.

October 31.—Died, in Sandgate, Newcastle, Elizabeth Jameson, aged 100 years. She lived in a garret wherein she was born, and brought up a large family, without having ever changed her situation.

December.—An explosion took place in Wallsend colliery, by which unfortunate accident two men lost their lives.

This year died, Mrs Carr, of the Quay Side, Newcastle, aged 100 years.

In the winter of this year, the entrance of Sunderland harbour was warped up by a large sand-bed, which extended quite across the mouth of the haven, leaving scarcely depth of water for the entrance of a light vessel. In consequence of which Mr. Stout, the resident engineer, suggested the erection of a temporary wooden pier, which was immediately adopted, and in a few months there was a deep and spacious channel. This beneficial result induced the commissioners to commence the building of a permanent pier of stone. This is the north pier.

This year, a Grammar-school was built by subscription at Stockton, on a plot of ground leased under the bishop of Durham by the corporation.

A Dispensary was this year established at Durham. Out of this charitable institution, arose the present Infirmary of that city.

The latter end of this year, there was a violent storm on the coasts of Durham and Northumberland. A great number of vessels were wrecked, and not less than 33 lay upon the beach between Hartlepool and Seaton.

1786 (Jan. 1).—The Presbyterian meeting-house in the Half-Moon-lane, Gateshead, was opened for divine service.

1786 (*Jan. 16*).—Died, at Chester-le-street, Mrs. Barron, in the 101st year of her age.

January 28.—A boar, the property of Mr. Graham (Clarke) of Newcastle, having escaped from his confinement into the street, a servant, named Joseph Smith, was despatched in pursuit of him. The man followed the animal into the narrow lane behind High Friar-street and the town's wall, from which it was necessary to turn him towards home, and made several attempts to drive him back, by throwing stones. The furious beast at last flew upon his wretched victim, and, seizing him by the upper part of the thigh, tore him dreadfully. Some persons overhearing his moans, came to his assistance, when the boar flew at them so furiously, that they were glad to make their escape by getting over an adjoining wall; after which the boar returned to his prey, and tore him upwards in such a dreadful manner, that he died in a few minutes after. The boar was shot immediately, and buried in the Carliol Croft, (now Carliol-street, &c.), but some persons afterwards dug him up.

January 30.—At this time there was a "House of Lords" in Newcastle. It consisted of a number of respectable tradesmen who met for the purpose of discussing politics. I possess an engraved ticket which appears to have been given to *Lord Scott*, on his creation, and having *taken the oaths and his seat in the upper house*. This ticket contains on one side, "NEWCASTLE HOUSE OF LORDS, GEO. SCOTT, No. 719," encircled with barley in stem, surmounted with a spread eagle and crown, with the motto "HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE; and at the bottom of all, is the mace, pots, glasses, pipes, &c. On the back of the card, "Jan^y 30th, 1786, E. Humble, Sec^y." This was the very respectable bookseller of that name. The sign of the Spread Eagle ("the House of Lord's Arms"), was at the bottom of the Groat Market, adjoining to Denton Chare.

March 18.—The following appeared in the *Universal Register* of this date:—"On Friday morning last, was found dead in his bed, at an obscure lodging near Chiswell-street (London), Mr. Swan. He was the only surviving male-heir of the late Thomas Swan, esq., alderman and mayor of Hull, in Yorkshire, who left estates to the amount of £20,000 per annum, which he had been trying (in vain) for above twenty-five years to recover. The history of this unfortunate man is no less remarkable than that of his father, who, when nine years of age, in 1705, (to disinherit him) was trepanned from his father's house, Richard Swan, esq., of Benwell Hall, near Newcastle, and put on board the new *Britannia* brig, was wrecked on the rocks of Scilly, with Sir *Cloudesley Shovel's* fleet, and was afterwards taken by an Algerine vessel, sold for a slave, and after four years' imprisonment, was set at liberty by the Redeeming Friars. After this he was again taken prisoner, carried and sold for a slave to a planter at South Carolina, where he suffered almost every human woe. He returned again to England, after a banishment of twenty years, in 1726, and was identified at Newcastle by his nurse and his father's footman. He directly

laid claim to the estates alluded to; but having neither money nor friends living to assist him, all his efforts proved abortive. After this he settled at North Dalton, near Hull, where he married one Jane Cole, by which marriage he left the above unfortunate William Swan; he afterwards died of a broken heart at the above village in 1735."

1786 (*April 24*).—Died, at Jarrow Quay, Mrs. Eleanor Railston, aged 103 years. She could walk about, and read without spectacles to the day of her death.

April.—An explosion took place in Wallsend colliery, by which unfortunate event six human beings lost their lives.

May 4.—Died, in Mr. Davison's hospital, in Newcastle, Mrs. Margaret Hobson, aged 100 years. She was the first woman that entered that building after its being opened for the reception of poor freemen's daughters.

May 15.—Died, at Picktree, near Chester-le-street, Mr. George Bell, in the 103d year of his age.

This month the burial ground at the Ballast-hills, near Newcastle, was begun to be encircled with a wall built by subscription, being before entirely open. This old wall becoming ruinous and inadequate for the protection of the dead, and the cemetery excessively crowded with interments, the corporation granted an extension of ground, and a parapet wall with high iron palisades, and two neat stone houses have recently been built by subscription.



May 24.—Sir Henry George Liddell, bart., of Ravensworth castle, in the county of Durham, in company with Mr. Bowes, and Mr. Consett, embarked at Shields, on board the Gottenburgh Merchant, Captain Fothergill, on a tour through Sweden, Swedish Lapland, Finland, and Denmark, which was performed in about three months. It is said that this tour was undertaken in consequence of a wager made by Sir H. G. Liddell, of going to Lapland, returning thence in a certain time, and bringing home two females of that country, and two rein-deer. Whatever truth there may be in this report, it is certain that Sir Henry brought two Lapland women and two rein-deer to England. The women, whose names were SIGREE and ANEA, were kept for some time at Ravensworth castle, where they were considered as great curiosities. Many presents were made to them, and they were sent back to their native country at the expense of Sir Henry, with about £50 in money, which they looked upon as great riches. An account of this tour, with plates by Bewick, was published by Mr. Consett.

June 6.—Died, at Sion House, near London, in the 74th year of his age, the most noble Hugh, duke and earl of Northumberland. June 21st, his grace was interred with great funeral splendour in Westminster Abbey.

1786 (*June 27*).—The bill for taking down and rebuilding All Saints' Church, in Newcastle, received the royal assent. The church was so ruinous that it was hazardous to assemble any longer therein. August 14th, the foundation stone of the new building was laid by the Rev. James Stephen Lushington, A. M. and vicar of that town, assisted by Mr. David Stephenson, architect to the building. Under the stone was deposited a plate with a suitable inscription. The present building stands west of the site of the old structure.

July 17.—Three hundred fine salmon were taken at one draught below Berwick Bridge; and a few days after, one hundred and fifty-five were taken at one draught in the same place.

August 9.—The post-office was removed from the head of the Side, to No. 9, Mosley-street, Newcastle. It remained in this public street until the year 1829, when it was removed to the east side of St. Nicholas' church-yard, an obscure situation, generally complained of.

August 21.—Francis Blenkinsop and Morley Tewitt were executed at Durham, for house-breaking.

August 27.—Died, at Bishop Auckland, Mrs. Nansome, in the 105th year of her age.

August 30.—Henry Jennings was executed on the Town-moor, Newcastle, pursuant to his sentence for horse-stealing. At the place of execution, he delivered an explanation of the cant terms used by robbers, pickpockets, &c., which he desired to be published for the benefit of the public at large. During the awful ceremony, a boy named Peter Donnison, was apprehended picking the pocket of a gentleman standing near the foot of the gallows.

September 2.—As Mr. William Hedley, in company with several others, were viewing the remains of the steeple of the old church of All Saints, in Newcastle, after it had sustained a blast with gunpowder, and the workmen were preparing for another, a few of the upper stones appearing to give way, they were forewarned of their danger; but Mr. Hedley ran unfortunately in the way, and one of the stones fell upon his head, which crushed it so dreadfully, that he soon expired after his being carried home. This gentleman was deeply regretted, particularly at Bourdeaux, in France, where he signalized himself, on the 25th of July, 1783, in so courageous a manner, by saving a child from drowning, as drew the attention of the whole kingdom of France, insomuch that his praise was resounded from the capital itself; no one else daring so dangerous an enterprise.

September 19.—Mr. Lunardi, having undertaken to make an aerial excursion from the Spital-field, in Newcastle, on this day (Tuesday) at one o'clock, he began the process of filling the balloon. When it was about two-thirds full, a quantity of acid was added to accelerate the process. In a few minutes, a considerable effervescence was perceived; and, in order to ascertain its force, Mr. Lunardi drew the plug from the funnel, which was

followed by the emission of a quantity of gas ; the sudden noise of which gave an unnecessary alarm to several gentlemen on that side of the balloon, who rushed from their stations, and by their motions and involuntary expressions, dictated by groundless apprehensions, caused the others near them to quit their hold, and fly to the opposite side. One side of the balloon being, by this means, totally deserted, its strong power of ascension tore the neck where it joined to the barrel. The noise of this being heard, and the gas escaping in a considerable quantity, notwithstanding Mr. Lunardi's assurances of safety, and his entreaties not to quit their hold, the alarm became general, and in a few seconds the balloon was liberated. It immediately disengaged itself from the barrel, and ascended with great velocity. One of the ropes, fastened to the top of the balloon, was retained to assist Mr. Lunardi in descending ; of which, during the operation of filling, Mr. Ralph Heron was kind enough to take the care ; and having inadvertently coiled it round his hand and arm, he was by that means unfortunately carried up by the balloon, to a great height ; his weight having turned the balloon, its top, to which the rope was tied, tore away, and brought with it the netting, which accompanied the young gentleman in his fall into a garden adjoining. The groans and exclamations issuing at this moment from every beholder, formed a chorus the most distressing that can possibly be conceived. He did not appear to have received any external contusion from the fall, but complained much of pain in his back and intestines. In this state he continued for a few hours, and then expired. The following copy of Mr. Lunardi's hand-bill, issued the following day, will shew that gentleman's feelings on the occasion :—" Mr. Lunardi is deeply afflicted for the melancholy accident that attended his endeavours to gratify the curiosity of the public with the ascension of his balloon ; and is only to be consoled by the reflection of its having been occasioned by circumstances which it was not in his power to prevent. It remains for him to yield his own wish to fulfil the expectation of the town, to the feelings of a parent, wounded by the loss of a most amiable son ; and to forbear a repetition in this town, which, without fault on his part, has been fatal to the peace of a respectable family. The unvaried success of his former exhibitions, though the remembrance of it now serves but to embitter his grief, will, he hopes, rescue him, in the eyes of a just and generous people, from any imputation injurious to his honour.—*King's Arms, Newcastle, Wednesday, Sept. 20, 1786.*"

1786 (*Sept. 30*).—Died, at the Westgate, Newcastle, Hannah Richardson, in the 102d year of her age.

This month, the duke of Newcastle was appointed lord-lieutenant and *custus rotulorum* of the county of Northumberland, and of the town and county of Newcastle.

November 13.—The royal mail-coach commenced running to the south, from Newcastle. *Nov. 22d*, The first mail from Newcastle to the south, was conveyed by the royal mail-coach.

Northumberl.

Nov. 27th, The mail was conveyed from Newcastle to the north by the coach for the first time.

1786 (Nov. 24).—A most shocking circumstance happened at Benwell, near Newcastle. Mr. Sparke, whose mother formerly kept the Black Bull ale-house, in the Flesh-market, Newcastle, having spent a considerable part of the evening with his mother, in her apartment up stairs, and having, it was supposed, got himself rather intoxicated, came down, and told the maid-servant he would kill the cat, when he instantly caught hold of the animal, and dashed out its brains; after which he forcibly turned the girl to the door, and locked it after her. She went to a neighbouring house to stay till the morning, when she returned and found the door open, and was met by her master, who informed her, he had been fighting with the devil all night, and had killed him, and he was then lying dead up stairs, dressed in his mother's clothes. The girl did not much regard what he said, as she had discovered, several times previous thereto, strong marks of insanity; but thinking her mistress unusually long in coming down stairs, she went up to awake her, when, on entering the room, a most dreadful spectacle presented itself; Mrs. Sparke lying dead, wounded in many places, and the bed-clothes, all bloody, strewed about the room. Upon examination, her neck being black and swelled, corroborated with other circumstances, the jury gave in their verdict, *wilful murder* by her own son; on which he was committed to Morpeth gaol. Previous to this act, he had been intoxicated for some days, which never failed to produce delirium, which often occasioned him to commit acts that testified the most perfect insanity. At the assizes, held in Newcastle, in August, 1787, he was acquitted.

November.—Died at Sunderland, Priscilla Liddle, aged 106 years.

December.—Died in the workhouse, at Wolsingham, Ralph Wilson, in his 101st year.

This year, the names of the streets in Newcastle were first put up.

The Society of Arts, this year, presented the gold medal to Thomas White, esq. of Retford, in Nottinghamshire, for planting 10,000 English elms upon his estate at Buttsfield, in the parish of Lanchester, county of Durham. The following year, the same gentleman received another gold medal, for planting 37,000 alders upon the same estate; and in 1788, he was presented with a third gold medal, by the same society, for planting 50,000 oaks on the same estate.

A presbyterian meeting-house having this year been built in South Shields, near a hill to which the burnt rubbish of a glass-house was led, took fire, and burnt with such unremitting violence as to render every endeavour to extinguish it in vain. It spread itself under the foundation of the meeting-house, which it burnt in such a manner as to leave nothing standing but the east and north wall, with which the roof was propped up. The diligence of the people to save the materials was very great; and in one day, ten men were carried out nearly suffocated with the sulphur proceeding from the fire under the building.

1787 (*Jan. 17*).—At the sessions in Newcastle, Hugh Peel, horse-dealer, was convicted of a fraudulent deceit, in putting off a *Scale de Cross note*, of no value, as and for a Newcastle bank-note of the value of £5., to an unlettered person, in part payment of the price of a mare, which Peel had bought of the said person; for which Peel was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment. The following is the form of this fictitious production of wanton wit. It was cut in copper, with a view of the Scale Cross at the head:—

N^o. 0o47

C.R.I.P.I.N.

I Promise to pay Mr Benj Bulk

or Bearer on Demand the Sum of Two Pence, Value received.

Scale de Cross Bank. NEWCASTLE. 24 *Janv* 1784

For Sir J. Duncan, Hide, Strap, Last, Awl & Self,
Jacob End.

Two Pence,

Entd Jas Back N^o. 0o47

N. B. Our Estates liable and Copper taken.

A few weeks after the establishment of this bank, the proprietors gave two guineas to the Newcastle Dispensary, and one guinea to the Lying-in Hospital!

January 30.—Some workmen, by accident, discovered in the north side of St. John's church-yard, Newcastle, a few inches below the surface, the body of a female without a head, and only a coarse cloth wrapped round it, part of which was much stained with blood. The coroner's jury sat on the body, and brought in their verdict, *wilful murder* by some person or persons unknown. The body being a state of great putrefaction, was buried as soon as possible. This extraordinary circumstance gave rise to many conjectures and suspicions, whereby many characters were accused; the magistrates, therefore, much to their credit, examined the affair with a most scrutinous eye, and, from the mysteriousness of the case, inserted the following advertisement in the Newcastle newspapers:—"The body of a female, supposed by the surgeon coroner, who examined it, to be about fifteen years old, and to have been dead about twelve months, having been found by some labourers, employed in levelling the back part of St. John's church-yard, without a coffin, lightly covered with earth, and in a situation that induced a suspicion of some person being murdered, a REWARD of TWENTY GUINEAS is offered by the corporation of Newcastle to any person who shall give such information as shall lead to a discovery, or to a satisfactory explanation of the circumstances occasioning the suspicion.—*Town Clerk's Office, Feb. 1, 1787.*" In consequence of the above advertisement, the body was taken up, February the 6th, for the inspection of a man and his wife, whose daughter had been a servant in Newcastle, but left her

place the preceding April, from which period they had not heard any account of her. On examining the body, it was found so mutilated and putrified, that no distinguishable marks could be discovered; it was, therefore, re-interred as soon as possible. Several persons were examined with respect to the disappearance of a girl about that time, but nothing was elicited to convict any of them.

1787 (*Feb. 20*).—Died, in Percy-street, Newcastle, Elizabeth Ellison, aged 103 years.

March 10.—As some labourers were levelling a piece of ground, near the burn on the west side of Wooler, they discovered, in the midst of a large heap of stones, a human skeleton, quite entire, and fenced on each side by a row of flat stones standing on edge, which served to support a large broad one on the top, as a cover. The bones, on being touched, instantly mouldered to dust.

March 18.—Died, in Westgate-street, Newcastle, John Rotheram, esq., M. D. Dr. Rotheram was very eminent in the line of his profession, and had a very extensive practice. He gave public lectures in Mr. Parker's long room, in the Bigg-market, Newcastle, on the nature and properties of water, explaining and illustrating the same by a variety of curious and entertaining experiments. Sept. 22, 1770, he published, "A Philosophical Inquiry on the Nature and Properties of Water; with elegant Copper-plate Figures of the several Salts." Dr. Rotheram was the author of the pasquinade which was found posted upon the door of the Exchange, in Newcastle, after the removal of the statue of Charles II. to that building. *See page 280.*

April 22.—Died, in Sandgate, Newcastle, Elizabeth Cowey, aged 102 years.

April 28.—At night, a blacksmith, in a state of intoxication, fell asleep in an open window in Sandgate, Newcastle, from whence he fell into the street, and in falling, a crook caught hold of his jaw-bone, by which he hung till it gave way. He languished till the following evening, and then expired.

June.—Two sparrows built their nest upon the topmast of a ship lying at Newcastle Quay, and deposited therein six eggs.

July 24.—There was in the neighbourhood of Newcastle, some very heavy falls of rain; for a short time it descended in such torrents as to have the appearance of an immense body of water. The Pont was swelled so much as to carry away several tons of hay from the meadows adjoining it. But consequences of a much more disastrous nature attended the rapid swelling of a small rivulet that runs past Wallbottle. A small arch having been cast over this rivulet, an embankment of earth was formed upon it for the purpose of making a waggon way from an adjoining colliery; the arch being too small for the admission of the body of water, and the trees, hay, &c., brought down by it, was soon choked up, and the water then forming an immense lake in the valley above, at length burst down the embankment, and rolling with an impetuosity scarcely conceivable, instantly carried away an adjoining mill, with a man working in it, who was drowned at a moment he suspected

no danger. In its progress to the river Tyne, it carried away three houses at the east end of the village of Newburn, where three people unfortunately lost their lives; all the houses in the low part of the village were filled with water, and the inhabitants having no apprehension of their danger, escaped with great difficulty.

1787 (*July 27*).—Being the birth-day of Lord Barnard, when his lordship came of age, great rejoicings took place at Raby castle, Darlington, Staindrop, Barnardcastle, &c. &c.

August 15.—Died, in London, Mr. Joseph Reed, in the 65th year of his age. He was a native of Stockton, and by profession a rope-maker, but is well known as a dramatic writer; several of his pieces keep possession of the stage, particularly his "*Register Office*," which is considered his chief production.

Same day, at night, four prisoners effected their escape out of the gaol of Newcastle, by breaking away the iron bars that enclosed the privy on the east side of the prison. Having previously got all their irons sawed off, they made their escape before any alarm was given.

August 20.—The philanthropic John Howard arrived in Newcastle, on his tour through England and Scotland, on the benevolent purpose of visiting the prisons. Several new regulations which he pointed out, the mayor gave orders to be put in immediate execution. He was invited by the chief magistrate to make the Mansion-house his home, which he politely declined.

This month, died, at Akeld, in Northumberland, Mrs. Kerr, aged 111 years.

October 10.—By a great flood in the river Wear, the bridge over it at Witton-le-Wear, was entirely swept away. Considerable damage was also done to the lands in the neighbourhood that were overflowed by it.

October 21.—Her grace the duchess of Northumberland arrived in Newcastle, from whence she went to Heaton Hall, one of the seats of Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., where her children underwent inoculation for the small-pox. On the 28th his grace joined the family at Heaton, where he staid till the following morning, when he set out for Alnwick castle. At Felton his grace was met by about 200 of his friends, tenants, &c., who accompanied him to Alnwick, where every demonstration of joy was testified by the inhabitants on the arrival of their noble visitor. About 150 gentlemen dined at the castle, where every thing that could contribute to the harmony, joy, and festivity of the company, was amply supplied. An ox was roasted whole in the market-place, three butts of ale were sent from the castle to regale the populace, and two guineas were given to every tavern and ale-house in the town for the same purpose. In the evening the whole town was illuminated, the cannon at the castle were fired, and, in short, the whole day spent in testimonies of esteem for this illustrious family.

October.—The stables of Chipchase castle, in Northumberland, took fire; but the doors and windows being partially closed, it was entirely extinguished when the doors were opened next morning.

Three valuable horses were suffocated, but the other damage done was trifling.

1787.—This year, a bill received the royal assent, to enable his majesty to license a play-house in Newcastle.

The honourable Mr. Raby Vane, this year, made the parish of Staindrop a present of six bells, cast for the purpose in London; and the right honourable the earl of Darlington, presented the same church with an excellent organ, the organist of which was also appointed and paid by the same peer.

1788 (*Jan. 12*).—The curious roof of the elegant new church of All Saints, in Newcastle, was completed and excited great admiration. The scaffolding was put up, taken down, and the whole of this extraordinary piece of work completed in six weeks, in very bad weather, and when the days were at the shortest.

January 18.—The new bells in the newly-erected steeple of North Shields (Tynemouth) church, were rung for the first time in honour of the Queen's birth day. The steeple was built by subscription.

January 21.—The new Theatre-Royal in Newcastle was opened with the comedy of "*The Way to keep Him*," and "*The Sultan*." Among the performers were Cooke, Munden, Whitlock, &c. &c. The season was closed with the comic opera of "*Inkle and Yarico*," and the farce of "*The Midnight Hour*." The season consisted of forty-one nights, which produced £2700. The scenes, which were painted by Mr. Edward Edwards, justly met with the utmost approbation. Mr. Edwards (who was afterwards associate and teacher of perspective in the Royal Academy), whilst in Newcastle, made drawings of the Exchange, Westgate, &c., which were engraved for Mr. Brand's History of Newcastle. This theatre was erected by shares of £30. each. There were 129 subscribers, which produced £3870.

This month a light-house was erected at Blyth, at the expence of Sir M. W. Ridley, bart.

April 1.—In the morning a dreadful fire broke out in the tobacco and snuff manufactory at Chimney-mills, near Newcastle, which, together with the stock in trade, and all the valuable machinery, were totally consumed; the wind being exceedingly high, communicated the flames to the adjoining dwelling-houses, which produced a truly melancholy scene of distress. It was not got under until a considerable part of the dwelling-houses and furniture of the inhabitants were consumed, especially those of the workmen belonging to the manufactory.

May 16.—Died, at Whitby, Mr. Lionel Charlton, an eminent mathematician. He was born on the 22d Dec. 1720, at Upper Stobbilee, in the parish of Bellingham, Northumberland. Mr. C. who it appears was lame from his youth, after being some years at a Free Grammar School, attended the University of Edinburgh for one or two seasons. About the year 1748 he settled in Whitby as a teacher and land-surveyor. In addition to a thorough knowledge of mathematics, and of the Latin language, he had some acquaintance

with the French, and his school, which was for many years the principal one in Whitby, produced a number of excellent scholars. It was towards the close of his life, when he had long been acquainted with the affairs of Whitby and vicinity, that he undertook the arduous task of writing a history of the town and abbey. Several years were spent in unwearied perseverance in collecting materials for his history, which was published in 1779, in one volume, quarto, with illustrations. It was the first history of that town, and does great credit to the learning and industry of the author.

1788 (*May 24*).—A melancholy accident happened at Tanfield-hall (a very ancient seat of the Spearman, but then occupied by farmers), occasioned by the sudden falling in of the roof thereof, which unfortunately buried two children, at play on the ground floor, in the ruins. The crash being heard by a person going past the place, he, on examining into the cause, was led by the groans of one of the children, to remove with the greatest alacrity a considerable part of the materials, and happily disengaged that child alive, but much bruised; the other having been instantly crushed to death by the great mass of rubbish from under which it was dug out.

June 27.—As the Rev. Mr. Warrilow, Roman Catholic priest of Newcastle, was going into the boxes of the theatre of that place, a man genteelly dressed came up to him, and attempted to take the watch out of his pocket, but having pulled it in an oblique direction, it stuck fast, and Mr Warrilow perceiving his intention, laid hold of his arm; he, however, immediately got it disengaged, and walked up into the green boxes, where he stood looking on the stage till Mr. Warrilow went to him and accused him of the attempt, which he denied with great firmness and *hauteur*, and affected to be much insulted by the suspicion; he then walked down stairs and into the opposite green box, but seeing Mr. Warrilow determined not to leave him, he went again down stairs and walked carelessly out of the theatre, when, Mr. Warrilow having procured a constable, he was apprehended in Drury Lane. He underwent an immediate examination before Mr. Alderman Rudman, and being unwilling to give any satisfactory account of himself, he was committed to the custody of a serjeant at mace till next morning, when he was again examined before the court of aldermen. He there said that his name was Jones, but that circumstance being doubted, a sailor was brought into court, who made oath that he knew him to be the *renowned* pick-pocket Barrington; he was thereupon committed to Newgate, and intelligence sent off to the public office in Bow-street, an advertisement having been published from thence, charging him with having picked the pocket of Haviland le Mesurier, esq., of twenty guineas and a-half, and offering a reward of five guineas on his commitment. Barrington was acquitted of this robbery. Sept. 22d, 1790, he was tried for stealing a gold watch, chain, and seals, from Henry Hare

Townsend, esq., and sentenced to be transported to Botany Bay, where he rose to considerable eminence.

1788 (*Aug. 6*).—John and Robert Winter, the father and son, were executed at Morpeth, pursuant to their sentence, for breaking open the house of William Charlton, esq. of Hesleyside; as they had lived for many years in a course of the most daring and shameless villainy, at their death, they testified the most brutal want of feeling, fear, or compunction. *See Aug. 10. 1792.*

August 28.—Thomas Morton, one of the guards of the Royal Mail-coach, undertook, for a considerable wager, to throw a stone over the highest vane of the steeple of St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, which he accomplished with ease at the fourth throw, the stone being seen several feet above the highest pinnacle of the steeple, which is 194 feet high.

September 22.—The fishermen belonging to Cullercoats, caught two young sharks off that place; they had each two rows of teeth, and measured near six feet in length.

September 24.—Eight new bells were landed at Newcastle, from London, for Gateshead church, and on the 15th of October, were rung for the first time.

This month, the arch of the Low-bridge, or Nether-dean-bridge, which formed a communication between Pilgrim-street and St. Nicholas' church-yard, over the Dean, Newcastle, was taken down, in order to form and open Dean-street. This bridge was strongly cramped with iron, and was evidently of Roman work. Mr. Bourne says, this bridge is chiefly famous because the *Roman wall* went along it.

October 18.—The first number of a newspaper, entitled "The Newcastle Advertiser," was published in Newcastle by Mr. Matthew Brown. After Mr. Brown's death in 1803, it was purchased by John Thompson and Charles Hutchinson, and afterwards by John Thompson. On the 3d of October, 1811, it was sold to Mr. Edward Humble, bookseller, who tried different days of publication, under the new title of "The Freeman's Weekly Post," and for some time with a second title of "The General Hue and Cry." At last this paper was discontinued in Newcastle, and "The Durham County Advertiser" arose from it. *See September 10, 1814.*

November 5.—Being the centenary of the glorious revolution, it was observed at Newcastle, Durham, Sunderland, Shields, Morpeth, &c., with every demonstration of joy. Many parties of gentlemen met in various inns in Newcastle, to celebrate the event.

November 9.—This day (Sunday), during divine service in the afternoon, a dreadful fire broke out in the house of Mr. Sweet, baker in the Castle-garth, Newcastle, which entirely consumed the same, together with 53 sacks of flour, and a considerable sum of money.

This year, Grindon church, in the county of Durham, dedicated to St. Thomas à Becket was nearly rebuilt, and the lead roof replaced with slate. The structure consists of a nave and chancel,

without tower or aisles. Near the centre of the floor are two blue slabs laid close together. A late search proved that two persons only had been interred here. Beneath the floor was virgin soil and strong clay, unmixed with any mouldering reliques of mortality, till at the depth of six feet, two ponderous oak coffins were discovered fast decaying amidst the wet undrained clay.

1788.—The church at Greatham hospital having become ruinous, was this year taken down, and the present neat structure built at the expence of the master.

1789 (*Jan. 12*).—In the evening, during a severe frost, a coble, with three women and one man in it, was inclosed by the ice in the middle of the river Tyne, near Newcastle, where it remained till next morning, when the people were got ashore in a most terrible situation, but by proper care, they were all perfectly recovered. On the 13th there was a most dreadful storm of wind, accompanied with heavy showers of snow. In the afternoon several ships were driven from their moorings. The Merchant, of Newcastle, and the Berwick, of Perth, were driven from below the Low-crane to within a few yards of the bridge, where they were providentially stopped by the ice, three keels and a boat were driven against them, the latter of which was split in pieces. At the lower part of the quay all the ships were driven foul of each other. The Supply, of Wells, lost her windlass, the Susannah, of Sunderland, lost her bowsprit, &c. The Dove, of Newcastle, and several other ships, received damage. Three keels were driven against the easternmost ships with such violence as to be thrown upon each other. Several other misfortunes occurred in the river Tyne.

February 7.—Died, in the Freeman's Hospital, in the Manor Chare, Newcastle, Mrs. Finlay, widow, aged 100 years.

February 22.—In the evening of this day (Sunday), a melancholy accident happened at a public-house in Newcastle. Mr. John Elliott, whitesmith, went into a room where a number of people were sitting, and began in a very illiberal manner to abuse several in the company, one of whom, Thomas Atkinson, tailor, returning him a smart but just retort, he (Elliott) threw a pot of beer he held in his hand on Atkinson's face, and immediately ran out of the room; the insulted party soon after followed him, and a scuffle, it was supposed, happened between them in the yard, where Elliott was found much bruised, with his leg broken in a shocking manner. He was sent to the Infirmary, where every means used for his recovery proved ineffectual, as a fever and mortification took place, and he died on the Wednesday evening in great agony. Coroner's verdict—*manslaughter*. At the assizes, held in Newcastle, in August, Thomas Atkinson was fined 6s. 8d. and discharged. Elliott left a widow and three children. One of these, a hatter, was tried for setting fire to the premises in which he had a sale shop. See *Jan. 25, 1798*.

March 19.—In Newcastle, the illuminations for his majesty's restoration to health after his severe indisposition, began about seven o'clock, and continued till eleven, during which time the

utmost harmony and good order were observed by the almost innumerable spectators of the various devices and transparencies that were produced on the occasion. Among the foremost was the Mansion-house: a fine transparency of the sun; underneath, Neptune triumphant, Commerce, the King and Britannia, with the motto, "*God Save the King*," the Queen and *Virtue Rewarded*; the Prince of Wales, and *Ich Dien*. The Theatre: Britannia and the Sovereign, with a view of Newcastle, in the back ground, and "*Long Live the King*." Alderman Rudman: the King, motto, "*Pater Patriæ*;" the Lord Chancellor, "*When I forget, may heaven forget me*;" Mr. Pitt, "*The dignity of the Sovereign, and the just rights of the people*;" under the figure of Hope, "*Securitas*." The house of Mr. George Anderson (now Anderson Place) was an universal blaze; above 800 candles were displayed in the front of it. At most of the neighbouring towns, similar rejoicings took place.

1789 (*March 30*).—A very numerous party of General Lambton's friends assembled at Chester-le-Street, to celebrate the event of his having succeeded to the entire property of Flatts estate and colliery, which formerly belonged to a branch of the Allans, of Grange. The bells were rung, a *feu de joie* was fired by a party of his majesty's dragoons quartered there, and several barrels of ale were distributed to the populace. The evening concluded with a general illumination.

May 26.—A large and elegant new house, at Howdon Pans, on the river Tyne, belonging to Mr. Lionel Robson, of the Broad Chare, Newcastle, was entirely consumed by fire. The flames were communicated to the bowsprit of a ship then building, which was immediately cut off to prevent their spreading farther.

The same day, the foundation stone of the independent Meeting-house at Hexham was laid, and an excellent sermon was preached on the occasion, by the Rev. Thomas Robinson, of that place.

June 15.—The prisoners in Morpeth gaol attempted to make their escape; they had got their irons sawed off, broke open the inner door of the prison, knocked down the turnkey, and on the gaoler's entering, finding they could not escape, they took him prisoner, and made fast the door of their apartment. Fortunately a party of artillery were then in the town, and by their assistance, they were quelled and properly secured.

July 16.—Died, that eminently pious and good man, the Rev. John Rotheram, rector of Houghton-le-Spring, Durham. He was the son of a clergyman, and born at Haydon-bridge, in Northumberland, June 22, 1725. After completing his education under his father, who was head master of the grammar-school in that village, he became a member of Queen's College, Oxford, in 1745. In 1749, Mr. Rotheram sailed for Barbadoes, where his brother had resided for some years, and whilst there, he produced a work entitled "*The Force of the Argument for the Truth of Christianity, drawn from a collective View of Prophecy*," occasioned by a controversy concerning Bishop Sherlock's Discourses on Prophecy. His next work was "*A Sketch of the one great Argument formed from*

the general concurring Evidence for the Truth of Christianity." In 1757 Mr. Rotheram, arrived on his native shore, and in the next year entered upon the curacy of Tottenham High Cross. In 1759, he published "*An Apology for the Athanasian Creed.*" In 1766, appeared his most admired work, "*An Essay on Faith and its Connexion with Good Works.*" This produced him the patronage of the archbishop of York, through whose recommendation to the bishop of Durham, he obtained the rectory of Ryton, and who also made him one of his chaplains. He was in great favour with his patron, Dr. Trevor, bishop of Durham, and lived constantly with his lordship during his residence at Durham, or Auckland Castle. In 1769, his lordship presented him with the valuable living of Houghton-le-Spring. Being on a visit to his friend, Dr. Sharp, at Bamborough Castle, he was there struck with the palsy, and expired in the presence of that excellent man on the morning of the above day. He lies buried at Houghton-le-Spring beside his brother, where a marble tablet is erected to their memories. There is a good portrait of Mr. Rotheram, painted by Mr. Sykes and engraved by J. Stow, prefixed to his memoirs, written by the late Rev. Richard Wallis, vicar of Seaham.

1789 (*July 22 and 23*).—The river Wear rose so high as to overflow the low land contiguous to it, and much damage was done to the corn, grass, and other lands by it, and the rivulets in that neighbourhood. The iron forge-mill belonging to Messrs. Hawks and Co., situate on a small rivulet at Braken-hill, near Chester-le-Street, was entirely swept away by the rapidity of the flood. A skin-mill adjoining to the forge, was at the same time swept away; also a new bridge, built by the earl of Scarborough, across the same rivulet, near Lumley Castle. The inhabitants of the lower parts of the town of Chester-le-Street were thrown into great consternation. Several of the houses were flooded with water to a great height, and the passage of the bridge was stopped for some time.

August 5.—Robert Brough, a butcher, was killed by a bull at the White Cross, Newcastle.

August 20.—The foundation stone of Ridley-hall-bridge, was laid by John Lowes, esq., at the depth of nine feet below the surface. Mr. and Mrs. Lowes each made the workmen a handsome present to drink.

August 21.—Two of the prisoners under sentence of transportation in the gaol of Newcastle, made their escape at twelve o'clock in the day, by letting themselves down by a rope on the east side of the prison. One of them sprained his leg and was taken the same day in Gallowgate. The other was taken in the Manor Chare.

August 24.—The house of the parish-clerk of Kirknewton, in Northumberland, was entirely burnt down. The fire was occasioned by a woman looking under the bed with a lighted candle. The family lost all their furniture and clothes, and all the parish records were consumed.

1789 (*August 26*).—Thomas Young, 24 years of age, was executed at Morpeth, pursuant to his sentence, for a highway robbery near Glenwhelk.

September 10.—At night, as the coachman of D. R. Grieve, esq., of Swarland, was returning from Warkworth with an empty carriage, he unfortunately drove over a precipice into a stone quarry, near Brainshaugh, and was killed on the spot; the horses were also killed, and the chaise broken to pieces.



September.—The original life boat was built at South Shields by subscription, under the direction and inspection of Messrs. Heath, Rockwood, Marshall, Masterman, Roxby, and Fairles. The latter gentleman was their chairman. The scheme was suggested by the melancholy loss of the crew of the *Adventure*, of Newcastle, in the above month. The men dropped from her rigging one by one, exhausted by cold and fatigue, as she lay stranded on the Herd Sand, near the entrance of the harbour, in the midst of tremendous breakers, in the presence of thousands of spectators, not one of whom could be prevailed on by any rewards to venture out to her assistance in any boat or coble of the common construction. The above committee was formed in consequence, and various plans were presented for attaining the proposed object—the construction of a boat calculated to brave the dangers of the sea, particularly of broken water. The preference was given to Mr. Henry Greathead, as the builder, who suggested the material improvement of making the keel *curved* instead of *straight*. The LIFE BOAT was first used on the 30th of January, 1790, when several seamen were brought off in safety from a wreck in the offing. The crew of the life boat were provided on their first trial, with cork jackets, but these were found to be quite unnecessary. Since the above period several hundreds of lives have been saved at the mouth of the Tyne alone, and the life boat, with various improvements or alterations, has been adopted in almost every port of Great Britain, and also in many

foreign ports. Mr. Greathead received several flattering compliments from persons of the highest rank; in particular, a diamond ring from the late emperor of Russia. He also received a parliamentary grant of £1200, and one hundred guineas from the Trinity-house, &c.

1789 (*Oct. 13*).—A gold and silver medal, given by Nicholas Ridley, esq., was shot for in the Carliol Croft, Newcastle, by the bowmen of Chevy Chase; the competitors were Nicholas Ridley, Richard Wilson, Aubone Surtees, and Joseph Forster, esqrs. The silver medal was won by Mr. Wilson, that of gold remained a subject of contest on a future day.

October 29.—The Circus, or Amphitheatre, at the Forth, Newcastle, was first opened under the direction of Messrs. Jones and Parker, equestrians from London, to a brilliant audience. It was built under the direction of the late Mr. David Stephenson. The very curious roof was constructed by the late Mr. Bulmer, builder.

November 5.—The cordwainers of Newcastle, according to annual custom, made a *grand procession* through the streets of that town and Gateshead, in honour of *King Crispin*. Nov. 12th, they were satirised by the glass makers, with the most irresistible comic humour. From this year, the cordwainers' procession was discontinued until 1823, when it was again repeated. The glass makers also walked this year, but in a more creditable manner. *See the year 1823*.

November 15.—The body of a woman named Ann Brown, about thirty years of age, was found in Stepney Lane, near Newcastle, mangled in a manner much too shocking for relation. Two men named Jamieson and Scott, were apprehended on suspicion of the above murder, but on examination, were acquitted of the charge, and Fletcher Reynoldson and Robert Gray, two keelmen, were apprehended for the same offence, of which they confessed being guilty, each charging the other with the actual commission of the murder. At the assizes in 1790, *no bill*.

November 16.—In the evening of this day (*Monday*), the right rev. Thomas Thurlow, lord Bishop of Durham, arrived in Newcastle, and by an invitation from the right worshipful Hugh Hornby, esq., mayor, was entertained at the mansion-house, and on the following morning, at eleven o'clock, his lordship proceeded to the newly-erected church of All Saints, to consecrate the same for divine service. The usual prayers of consecration were read with great solemnity. An excellent sermon was preached by the rev. Hugh Moises, lecturer of the said church, and rector of Greystock, in Cumberland; his text was from Leviticus, chap. xix. ver. 30. After divine service, the mayor gave a grand entertainment to the bishop, the clergy then in town, the trustees for building the church, the church-wardens, and a number of other gentlemen. The pews, columns, and ornaments, of this beautiful fabric, are all of mahogany, and collectively, convey the highest idea of magnificence and grandeur. In the preceding September, the sittings in this church were sold by auction. Some single seats of 18 inches

in breadth, sold for £8. 12s. each. The corporation of the Trinity-house, paid 500 guineas for 52 seats.

1789 (*Nov. 17*).—Died, in St. Nicholas' poor-house, Newcastle, of which he was the keeper, Mr. William Umfreville. His father, Mr. Thomas Umfreville, who died June 28th, 1783, was for 40 years parish clerk of St. John's, in that town, and had formerly been a merchant there. He appeared to be a descendant of one of the greatest names and most illustrious families in the north. The pedigree traces back the family to Robert Umfreville, lord of Tours and Vian, in the time of William the Conqueror. He had, in his custody, a sword, which belonged to Sir Robert Umfreville, vice-admiral of England, about the time of Richard II. This, with the pedigree, was afterwards in the possession of his grace the Duke of Northumberland. Mr. Umfreville, died in very indigent circumstances, leaving a widow and one son. His son, Captain Umfreville, died a few years back.

The sulphur well, at Dinsdale, Durham, was this year, accidentally discovered by some labourers employed by the late Mr. Lambton, in searching for coal. The men had bored to the depth of 72 feet, chiefly through red rock and whinstone, when the spring burst forth with a tremendous smoke and sulphureous stench. The remarkable qualities of the water attracted the attention of the labourers, who dug a hole in the channel of the spring for the purpose of bathing, and one of them, who had been long afflicted with chronic rheumatism, was perfectly cured by the bath and drinking the water. A cold bath was built in 1797, and a warm bath has since been added. The Dinsdale Spa, has gradually become a place of great resort, and the little village of Middleton, a quarter of a mile below the bath, has been sometimes crowded with visitors.

This year, died at Berwick, William Addison, gardener, aged 101, years. Also, died at the same place, Thomas Morrison, gardener, aged 104 years.

Dean Street and Mosley Street, in Newcastle, were this year formed out of what was called the Dean, a place of filth and dirt.

About this time an unfortunate woman of the city of Durham, named Jane Ramshaw, was decoyed from her house at night and murdered. This horrid deed caused a great sensation, and several persons were examined before the magistrates, but the perpetrator of it was never brought to justice. There was a rumour that a soldier on his death-bed, on the continent, confessed that he was the murderer.

1790 (*Feb.*).—The workmen employed in clearing away the rubbish at the top of the new street, then forming in Gateshead, found a great number of Roman coins, inclosed in an urn. Many of the coins having got into the hands of the workmen, could not be recovered, yet several of them in good preservation, of the Emperor Hadrian, were in the possession of the late David Stephenson, esq., architect. These, together with those found in the piers of the bridge, over the Tyne, at Newcastle, are confirmatory of that bridge having been of Roman origin. *See page 290.*

1790 (*March 20*).—A fire was discovered in the stack-yard of Mr. Hopper, farmer, at Axwell hall, near Winlaton, which burnt with such violence, that in a short time the barn and byer with two stacks of corn, and five cows were consumed.

This month, in digging a grave in the church yard, at Hartlepool, a stone coffin was discovered, containing the body of a man, which appeared to be quite entire. It seemed he had been put in with his clothes, boots, &c. on, but as soon as exposed to the air, it immediately went all to dust, excepting the soles of his boots, which were cut in pieces and distributed about as a great curiosity.

April 13.—About one o'clock on the morning, a dreadful fire broke out at Monkwearmouth hall, formerly the mansion-house of Sir Hedworth Williamson, bart. It first appeared at the east-end inhabited by the Rev. Mr. Ivison, who with his family narrowly escaped; it communicated to the other parts of the house, which were also entirely destroyed, excepting a small building to the west. The fire burnt with such rapidity, that not an article belonging to Mr. Ivison was saved. The house having been formerly a monastery and joined to the church, the latter was, with the greatest difficulty preserved. A large dining room, in this hall, was pannelled with dark oak, on which were painted landscapes and hunting pieces; the staircase was also of oak.

May 15.—The master and brethren of the Trinity-house, in Newcastle, resolved to present the freedom of that corporation to his royal highness the duke of Clarence, (now King William IV.) which was conveyed to him in an elegant gold box. It was a highly-finished piece of workmanship; on the top were the arms of the Trinity house in enamel, the sides were decorated with beautiful emblematical devices, on the bottom a crown and C., his royal highness's crest, and on the inside of the lid was engraven, "*The freedom of the Corporation of the Trinity-house of Newcastle upon Tyne, JONATHAN AIREY, esq., master, presented to his royal highness the duke of Clarence, May 15, 1790.*" The corporation of the Trinity-house of Newcastle, can now boast having as a member of that body, the most popular and beloved sovereign that ever swayed the sceptre of this kingdom.

May.—As some workmen were digging to the stone in a quarry at Billy-mill, near North Shields, above five feet from the surface, they discovered a stone coffin, walled round, and covered with a large flat stone, without any inscription upon it. Within it was a perfect human skeleton, which mouldered to dust immediately on being exposed to the air.

June 5.—Died, at Framlington, in Northumberland, Mr. Thomas Blenkinsopp, aged 105 years.

June 22.—There was a violent storm of thunder and lightning in Newcastle and its neighbourhood, which continued without intermission for about two hours; the blaze of lightning was, during that period, almost incessant, and the peals of thunder most tremendously awful. During the storm, the electric fluid struck upon the top of a house in the Painter-heugh, Newcastle, and passing

down the chimney, shattered a stone at the bottom to pieces, an out-house in the yard was also thrown down, which a maid servant had just quitted. It struck a chimney and shattered the gable end of a house, near St. Ann's chapel, which it left in a very ruinous condition. A gardener, at the Red-heugh, immediately after entering a house for shelter from the rain, was struck by the lightning and killed on the spot, and his body soon after assumed the appearance of putrescency. A thatched house in Chester-le-street, was set on fire. A cottage, near Barnardcastle, was also burnt down, and several cows and sheep killed in various parts of the country.

1790 (*Aug 5.*)—Thomas Watson was executed on a temporary gallows without the Westgate, Newcastle, for the murder of George Gibson. The circumstances of this murder were marked with singular enormity, and were evidently the result of the most determined premeditation. Watson was a single man, and lived with his father, who had a farm at Elford. Gibson was a married man, and had a farm at Coldrife, near Newham, in Northumberland. Watson and Gibson, were at one time very intimate friends, but the former having heard that Gibson had accused him of unnatural crimes, he determined upon Gibson's destruction, and accordingly he purchased a pistol, balls, and powder, of a gunsmith, in Alnwick, and having infuriated himself with liquor, way-laid Gibson in the night of the 19th of February, 1790, at a place where he expected him to pass, but being disappointed, he the next morning went to Gibson's farm, where he found him, and deliberately shot him through the heart, which caused his death in a few minutes. An attempt was made on the trial to prove his being afflicted with a temporary insanity, but this was not satisfactorily substantiated. At the conclusion of the trial, he betrayed little emotion on hearing his sentence pronounced. At the place of execution, he confessed that he justly suffered, but did not seem very penitent for the commission of the crime. The body was sent to the surgeons' hall for dissection, where the skeleton now remains. During the trial of Watson, one Jane Stephenson, was detected stealing a handkerchief out of a young man's pocket, in the open court; she was immediately secured, and taken before the grand jury, who found a true bill, from thence before His lordship, when she was immediately found guilty, and sentenced to seven years' transportation, all in the course of a few minutes.

August 18.—John Brown, for breaking into a house at Fenham; James Greenwood, for breaking into a shop at North Sunderland; and George Bolton, for horse-stealing, were executed at Morpeth. The execution of three criminals at one time, drew an immense multitude of spectators. Brown was born at Winlaton, in the county of Durham, and left a widow and six children. Greenwood left a widow and three children. Bolton was born at Usworth, in the county of Durham, and had lived as a servant with several people at North Shields.

September 22.—The bugle-horn, given by his grace the duke of Northumberland, to the bowmen of Chevy Chase, was shot for at

Morpeth, and won by Richard Wilson, esq., who also on the same day, won the medal given by the society to the "Captain of Numbers." The other medal was won by Nicholas Ridley, esq. October 4th, at another meeting held at Morpeth, another trial of skill took place, when the gold medal was won by Nicholas Ridley, esq., and the silver medal by Richard Wilson, esq.

1790 (*Oct. 23*).—A woman was *exalted* on a pillory erected on purpose, in the centre of the Sandhill, Newcastle, for perjury. She was exhibited from twelve o'clock to one o'clock.

This month an explosion took place in Wallsend colliery, by which unfortunate occurrence, seven human beings lost their lives.

December 29.—In the evening, Lord Delaval's elegant theatre, at Seaton Delaval, was opened for the admission of a certain number of ladies and gentlemen, to whom tickets had been sent, and the tragedy of "*The Fair Penitent*," was performed in a manner that would have done credit to a regular theatre. The after-piece, called "*You may like it, or let it alone*," was written for the occasion, and consisted of a number of songs, selected from other pieces, and introduced in an original plot; the performers were Lord Delaval, Lord Tyrconnell, Mr. Spearman, Mr. Williams, (Mr. F. Forster, Lady Tyrconnell, Mrs. Abbs, Miss Daniel, Miss A. Daniel, Miss Ferry, and Master Taylor. An epilogue, written and spoken by the noble lord of the mansion, contained much humour and good point, and an elegantly turned welcome to his visitors.

An act was this year obtained for paving, lighting, and watching, the city of Durham, and for levying certain tolls for those purposes. The act was altered and amended in 1822.

This year, a Presbyterian meeting-house, near the east end of South Shields, was rebuilt.

1791 (*March 16*).—A little before twelve o'clock at night a fire broke out in the house of Mr. Powell, surgeon, in the Bigg Market, Newcastle, which raged with such fury, that the family, who had all retired to bed, could with difficulty save their lives. The house, and all the valuable furniture, &c. were entirely destroyed.

May 4.—Died, at Great Tossen, near Rothbury, in Northumberland, Mr. Samuel Donkin, aged 102 years.

June.—There were living in Sandgate, Newcastle, a man and his wife, whose ages together, amounted to 200 years the husband being 103, and the wife 97.

July 6.—The foundation-stone of a new theatre was laid in the city of Durham, with great masonic *eclat*, by George Finch, esq., deputy grand master for the county, in the presence of Thomas Chipchase, esq., mayor, and William Ambler, esq., recorder of the city. A plate, with a suitable inscription, was deposited within the stone. March 12th, 1792, this theatre was opened, with an occasional prelude, called "*Apollo's Holiday*," written by Mr. Cawdell; the new comedy of "*Wild Oats*;" and the farce of "*The Spoiled Child*."

July 6.—An incendiary letter was found on the step of the shop

door of Mr. Fife, cabinet maker, in the Postern, Newcastle, threatening the destruction of the Postern meeting-house.

1791 (*July 6 and 7*).—Dr. Graham, to shew the nature and safety of earth-bathing, for the use of various diseases, had himself and a young woman, troubled with a scorbutic disorder, placed naked in the earth, and covered up to their lips, in Hanover Square chapel ground, in Newcastle, from twelve o'clock at noon till six in the evening, each day. Great numbers attended to see this curious exhibition.

August 18.—About twelve o'clock at night, the warehouses of Mr. Alderman Rudman, at the head of the quay, Newcastle, were discovered to be on fire. The flames instantly burst forth with the most impetuous violence, and almost immediately communicated to the adjoining warehouses of Messrs. Nichol and Ludlow, wharfingers, which were burnt to the ground; from whence it was communicated to the roof of the Exchange, the west end of which was burnt for a considerable distance, but the application of the fire engines fortunately prevented that important building from sharing a fate, that for some time, appeared inevitable. A warehouse, and part of the office of Messrs. Allan, Robinson, & Co., were also burnt down. From the warehouses of Mr. Rudman nothing could possibly be saved, but the principal part of the goods in Nichol and Ludlow's were got out. The flames, after entirely destroying all that range of buildings from the Tyne Bank at the bridge end to the west end of the Exchange, were effectually got under about five o'clock on the following morning. In consequence of the fire getting into the Exchange, the pictures at the west end of the Guildhall, were considerably damaged by it. They were afterwards repaired in a very masterly style by Mr. Bell, painter, of Newcastle.

August 25.—The gentlemen archers of Darlington, met at the house of Mr. Burton, and from thence proceeded to the field to shoot for the silver medal, gorget, and cup, when the medal was won by Mr. Buxton, as captain: the gorget by Mr. Carr, as lieutenant; and the cup by Mr. Thompson Harrison, as ensign.

August 30.—The bowmen of Chevy Chase, had a trial of skill on the town moor, Newcastle, when the gold medal was won by Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., and the silver medal for "Captain of numbers," was won by Nicholas Ridley, esq.

This month, a grand musical festival took place in Newcastle. It was held in St. Nicholas' church.

September 7.—Died, in the High Bridge, Newcastle, Mrs. Ann Young, in her 103d year.

September 21 and 22.—At the Morpeth meeting of the Northumberland archers, the silver bugle, given by his grace the duke of Northumberland, patron and perpetual president of the society, was won by John Widdrington, esq.; the gold medal for the "Captain of the target," by William Ogle, esq.; and the silver medal for the "Captain of numbers," by John Bell, esq.

1792 (*Sept. 25*).—A young shark was brought into Sunderland by some fishermen. It was taken in a herring net in Whitburn bay; it measured about five feet in length.

This month, as some labourers were levelling the hill at the lower end of South Shields, near the Law-house, they discovered a round flat stone of about two feet and a half in diameter, which bore the marks of fire on the upper side, and which was supported by rude pillars of about ten inches in height; a quantity of earth resembling red ashes was found under the stone, and on a level with the bottom of the pillars, was a circular pavement of flat free stones, extending about two feet from the verge of the said stone. They also found cannon-balls of various sizes, and foundations of walls here and there, and part of a house with the fire place complete.

October 15.—The bowmen of Chevy Chase, exerted their skill on the race-ground Newcastle, when a most elegant gold medal, with an inscription and device, expressive of respect to a deceased member, was won by Richard Wilson, esq., who having put in the most central arrow, became "Captain of the target." The elegant silver medal for "Captain of numbers," was won by Mr. Bell, of Gallow-hill. The number of shots each gentleman had in the target were as follows:—Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., vice-president, 4; John Bell, esq., 12; Nicholas Ridley, esq., 7; Richard Wilson, esq., 4; and John Wilson, esq., 4.

October 22.—From a great quantity of rain having fallen, much damage was done by the overflowing of the rivers and brooks, a great part of Wooller-bridge was carried away.

November 2.—The new church at Long Benton, in Northumberland, was consecrated by the right rev. the lord bishop of Peterborough.

The Methodist chapel at the foot of Sans-street, Sunderland, was opened this year by the Rev. Dr. Coke. It was considerably enlarged in 1809.

This year, the old gateway, called Claypath-gate, a weak single arch of stone and rubble which stood near the east end of St. Nicholas' church, in the city of Durham, with some adjoining shops and houses were removed. There was a foot passage on the east side.

A theatre was this year erected adjoining South Shields, on the bank top in the township of Westoe.

1792 (*Jan. 26*).—A public meeting was held at Sunderland for the purpose of considering the propriety of petitioning parliament for leave to erect a bridge across the river Wear, at that place.

February 8.—A petition to parliament was agreed on by the inhabitants of Newcastle and Gateshead, for the abolition of the slave trade. The whole kingdom appeared at this time to be interested in the degraded state of the poor blacks. Newcastle, in particular, has ever been foremost in craving parliament to exert its powers, and do away with that traffic in human flesh. Numerous have been the petitions from this town on that subject, but the meeting which took place on the 11th of August 1830, was of a

peculiarly interesting nature. It was held in Brunswick-place chapel, which was crowded to excess, T. W. Beaumont, esq., M. P. for Northumberland, was in the chair, John Hodgson, esq., M. P. for Newcastle, Mr. Brougham, (now Lord Brougham and Vaux, lord high chancellor of England) and several other gentlemen made most eloquent speeches, after which, a powerful petition for the abolition of slavery was agreed to. The Ladies' Anti-slavery Association of Newcastle, the same year, petitioned the queen (Adelaide) to exert her influence in its abolition, which was very graciously received by her majesty.



1792 (*Feb 11*).—Died, in Sandgate, Newcastle, Ann Clarke, in her 101st year.

February 26.—A most melancholy accident happened at the mouth of the river Tyne:—a coble having five pilots belonging to South Shields on board, was unluckily overset by a very heavy sea, and every soul hurried into eternity.

April 20.—As the wife of James Anderson, of Shillbottle coal-houses, was in the byer with a lighted candle attending a cow near her calving, she unfortunately (as was supposed) fell asleep, when the candle set fire to some straw that was near, which fired the roof and burnt the byer, and consumed the poor woman, big with child, to ashes, with two cows, two horses, some stacks of corn and hay, and all the hinds' houses, byers, and stables of the place. The flames burnt with such fury, that it was with great difficulty one of the hinds saved his family from its violence, every thing he had was destroyed, except a blanket, in which he carried his little children from the threatening destruction.

This month, the pulling down and rebuilding North Shields church commenced.

The herbage of the Lady Chapel Banks, near Morpeth, was this

month by some means set on fire, and continued to spread for some days; it communicated to an adjoining wood belonging to the duke of Portland, and many valuable trees were destroyed. From the dry weather, and the high winds, apprehensions were formed of its destroying a great part of the beautiful wood adjoining.

1792 (*July 8*).—Died, in the parish of Stamfordham, Isabella Dickenson, aged 102 years.

July 16.—There was a tremendous storm of thunder, lightning, and rain. In the neighbourhood of Bellingham, the rain fell very copiously for about two hours, when it apparently ceased; but in about an hour afterwards, the atmosphere, in various directions, became almost a continued stream of electric fire, and the thunder which followed, awful beyond description. On the hills near Otterburn, the tempest increased to a hurricane, and the clouds discharged water in volumes resembling water-spouts. Small rivulets, which run from these hills, were swelled into deep and rapid streams, and before half-past eleven at night the river Rede rose near thirteen feet perpendicular, being one foot higher than it was in November, 1771. Many hundred acres of meadow and corn land were covered with water. Large quantities of bushes and trees were torn up by the roots. The river at Newcastle was much flooded, and much damage was done to the crops in that neighbourhood. A cow was killed upon Morpeth common, as was also a valuable horse near Stannington. Many of the streets in Newcastle were overflowed, and some damage done in the cellars and low shops, in various parts of the town. This flood carried away two of the arches of a bridge upon the turnpike road leading from Hexham to Carlisle.

July 17.—A very singular and destructive *ice storm* occurred at Sedgfield, in the county of Durham, and its neighbourhood. It happened between the hours of eleven and one in the day, and was preceded by an almost total darkness, and a noise resembling reverberated thunder. The streets in the town were filled to the depth of two feet with pieces of rugged ice, varying in size from that of a marble to the bigness of a man's head. All the windows which had a southern aspect were entirely broken, and many houses presented a dreadful picture of its violence and devastation. It began near Preston, and continued to rage in a south-east direction to beyond Kelloe. All the corn exposed to its fury was destroyed. The trees were stripped of their leaves, numerous birds were killed, and the cattle broke from their pastures, and, with visible expressions of terror, fled to the habitations of man for security.

This month, died at South Shields, Barbara Dunn, aged 104 years.

August 7.—A rumour having prevailed amongst the lower class of the inhabitants of Berwick, that three young surgeons of that place had made a practice of procuring the bodies of persons recently interred in the church-yard there, for the purpose of dissecting them, an alarming mob, assembling on the above day,

proceeded to the utmost violence, and totally demolished a building belonging to Mr. Nesbit, where they found several dead bodies; they also attempted to effect the like purpose upon another house belonging to a person whom they suspected to be concerned in the robbery of the sacred sepulchres of their friends. The violent disposition of the populace called forth the utmost exertions of the magistracy; the riot act was read without effect, and to their aid, they were under the necessity of calling forth the troops in garrison before the tumultuous mob could be induced to disperse. Mr. Miller was lodged in prison, Mr. Yelloly was out on bail, and a reward of ten guineas was offered for the apprehension of Mr. Nesbit who had absconded.

1792 (*Aug. 8*).—As some workmen were pulling down an old house near the market-place, in Stockton, belonging to Mr. James Crowe, they discovered a bag, which had been concealed in an inner wall near the fire-place, which, on examination, was found to contain a considerable number of pieces of silver coin, supposed to have lain there above a century. Some of the coins were much worn, yet many others were in fine preservation. Among a great variety there were some fine pieces of Edward VI., Queen Mary and Elizabeth, also several half crowns, &c., of Charles I., representing on one side the king on horseback, with arms and weapons, the Welsh feathers behind him, and with his usual style: on the reverse this motto:—*EXVRGAT DEUS DISSIPENTVR INIMICI*, in a circle near the edge; and *RELIG. PROT. LEG. ANG. LIBER PAR.*, in two lines across the middle of the area, alluding to what his majesty had declared at the breaking out of the war:—That his intention was to preserve the Protestant religion, laws, and liberties of his subjects, and the privileges of parliament. These were supposed to have been coined at Oxford in 1642, 1643, and 1644. The bishop of Durham, as lord of the manor, recovered 840 pieces, weighing 9lbs. 4oz.

August 10.—William Winter, Jane Clark, and Eleanor Clark, were executed at the Westgate, Newcastle, pursuant to their sentences, for the murder of an old woman, named Margaret Crozer, at Elsdon, in Northumberland. Winter was hung in chains on Whiskershields common. The bodies of the two unfortunate females were sent to the surgeons' hall for dissection, and afterwards interred. The trial of Winter and his associates occupied the attention of the court for sixteen hours. Such had been the horrid depravity of William Winter, that he had not been at liberty six months together during the last eighteen years of his life. He had been convicted in 1784 of stealing an ass, and sent to the hulks on the Thames for seven years, from whence he was discharged on the 14th of August, 1791. His father and brother were hanged, August 6th, 1788. The father of the two females was hanged on the 14th of August, 1793—*which see*.

August 12.—The bowmen of Chevy Chase shot at a target on the town-moor, Newcastle. The prize was a most elegant silver quiver, given by Lady Ridley (lady patroness), in honour of the

Prince of Wales' birth-day, to be annually shot for on the 12th of August. The most central shot to win. The members present were Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., Nicholas Ridley, Joseph Forster, John Dickson, Miles Monkhouse, John Wilson, Lancelot Heron, and John Bell, esqrs. The prize was won by John Wilson, esq., whose arrow was in the centre of the gold. Sir M. W. Ridley had his *marquee* pitched on the shooting ground, with refreshments for the company; and afterwards gave an elegant entertainment at the mansion-house to the members. The renewal of this ancient English exercise was much in fashion at that time, a society having been formed under the patronage of his grace the duke of Northumberland, denominated "*The Northumberland Archers.*"

1792 (*Aug. 22*).—Sylvanus Broadwater and Joseph Marshall, found guilty of stealing two horses, in the neighbourhood of Brampston, and Christopher Taylor, for setting fire to a malting at Bardon mill, near Haltwhistle, and stealing a box containing £20. in gold, also found guilty, were severally executed at Morpeth, pursuant to their sentences. Broadwater and Marshall persisted in their innocence as to any intention of stealing the horses, saying they only took them to ride part of the road. Taylor also said, he was innocent of the crime for which he was about to suffer.

August 26.—In the night and the following morning, there was an extraordinary fall of rain in Newcastle and its neighbourhood. The water ran down the streets in torrents, and did great damage in the lower parts of that town and Gateshead; at the Stock-bridge,* the current, which was more than the arch could contain, swept down the battlement, and flowed into many of the houses there, in Pandon, and Blyth's Nook. At the foot of the Bottle-bank, and Pipewellgate, Gateshead, the water flowed into the houses and shops; many people attended to carry others on their backs through the current; one woman carrying another across the street, near where the Tollbooth stood, the stream proved too strong for her, she stumbled with her burden, and both were rolled down for a considerable distance. A great flood of water came down the rivers Tyne, Team, and Derwent, which overflowed all the haughs and low grounds, whereby great quantities of hay and corn were destroyed. As Mr. George Walton, farmer, was returning home from Tanfield, in crossing a rivulet not far from his own house, he and his horse were carried down by the violence of the current, the horse got to land, but unfortunately Mr. Walton was drowned; the body floated down the river Derwent, and was taken up near Swalwell the following morning. There was also much damage done in the river Wear.

September 19.—The bowmen of Chevy Chase met at Morpeth, when the silver bugle, given by his grace the duke of Northumberland, was won by Nicholas Ridley, esq.; and the silver medal for "Captain of numbers," by John Bell, esq., of Gallow-hill. The following day, the gold medal for "Captain of the target," was won by

* Within my recollection, there was really a bridge here, having battlements and the water open on each side.

John Bell, esq., and the medal for "Captain of numbers," by Nicholas Ridley, esq.

1792 (*Oct. 4*).—The elegant gold and silver medals given by the Northumberland archers, or bowmen of Chevy Chase, for "Captain of target" and "Captain of numbers," were shot for at Alnwick, both of which were won by John Bell, esq., of Gallow-hill. The duchess of Northumberland, honoured the meeting by her attention to the shooting from the ramparts of the castle, the shooting ground being nearly opposite to that noble and ancient structure.

October 27.—A stack of hay, containing about 70 tons, standing near Heaton colliery, which had not been sufficiently dry when put up, took fire, and was totally consumed.

This month, died at South Shields, Ann Mackie, aged 100 years.

November 24.—Being the anniversary of the birth day of Miss Ann Riddell, of Felton Park, the morning was ushered in by the ringing of bells; ale and other liquors were distributed to the populace, and the evening concluded with a dance at Felton Park. On the 27th, Sir Walter Blount, of Morley, in Shropshire, gave an ox to the inhabitants of Felton and its environs, which was roasted whole. Two men-cooks, in proper uniform, cut up the ox and distributed it in equal proportions to the people, the bakers of the village did the same with bread, and the publicans with their ale. The whole was conducted with the greatest decorum, with music and firing of cannon. The favourite tune was, "*There's few good fellows when Watty's awa'.*" The village exhibited a scene of laudable hospitality and harmless festivity. On the following morning Sir Walter Blount and Miss Ann Riddell were united in wedlock. Immediately after the ceremony, they took their departure for his seat in Shropshire, amidst the blessings of the poor and the acclamations of the populace, who unharnessed the horses and drew the carriage from Felton Park quite through the village. He gave ten pounds to the poor of the parish, and three guineas to the people who drew the carriage, to drink; at the same time, Sir Walter ordered two fat sheep to be roasted and distributed, which was accordingly done that day.

December 24.—Died, in the High Bridge, Newcastle, Mr. William Whitehead, musical instrument maker and turner. In 1775, Mr. Whitehead invented a swell for the piano forte, which was much approved of by the musical people in Newcastle. He also, in conjunction with Mr. Jameson, engraver, published "*An Explanation of the Incorporated Companies of Newcastle, 1776.*" Mr. W. also published "*The Historian's Pocket Companion, 1777,*" and a "*Newcastle Directory,*" which last was continued for several years. The whole of these are now very scarce. Mr. W. was a very ingenious and eccentric man. He left two maiden sisters (both since dead) who were of some celebrity for a peculiar method of dying and cleaning silk, &c. &c.

December 31.—About two o'clock on the morning, a fire broke out in one of the lodging-rooms in the rectory-house at Sedgfield, in the county of Durham, which consumed the greatest part of the

building before it was extinguished; by the activity of the servants and the neighbourhood, the most valuable part of the furniture was preserved. The superstitious and vulgar inhabitants of Sedgfield, were, previously to the burning down of the rectory-house, alarmed by an apparition, denominated the *Pickled Parson*, which for many years was presumed to infest the neighbourhood of the rector's hall, "making night hideous." The supposed origin of the tale is attributed to the cunning of a rector's wife, whose husband having died about a week before the tithes (which are generally let off to farmers and the rents paid on the 20th of December) became due, she concealed his death by salting his body in a private room. Her scheme succeeded; she received the emoluments of the living, and the next day made the decease of the rector public. Since the fire, the apparition has not been seen.

1792 (*Dec.*).—This month, Thomas Paine, author of the "*Rights of Man*," &c., &c., was burnt in effigy at most of the towns and considerable villages in Northumberland and Durham.

This year, in clearing out the ditch of the keep of Norham castle, wherein was procured much excellent manure, a large two-handed broad sword was found, an iron spur with a brass rowel an inch and a half in diameter, a steel arrow point, several plaited straps of leather, each an inch and a half in breadth, which appeared to be the remains of a buckler to resist the force of weapons, and the remains of a shoe, very sharp at the toe, and narrow at the instep. A very deep well was discovered in an apartment adjoining the dungeon tower.

The charity-school belonging to the parish of St. Andrew, in Newcastle, for girls, was this year instituted, and the school-house in Percy-street built by voluntary contributions.

This year, the Society of Arts presented the silver medal to George Pearson, esq., of Harperly, in the county of Durham, for an account of the improvement of 100 acres of land by 7700 yards of hollow drain.

The old church at Greatham, in the county of Durham, consisted of a nave, with regular aisles, each formed by three pillars, each supporting light pointed arches, and a chancel opening under a round arch springing from hexagonal pilasters. In the above year, the whole structure, being ruinous, was taken down and entirely rebuilt, and a bell-tower added at the west end, with an entrance beneath. The only parts of the old structure which are retained, are the pillars and arches on each side of the nave, forming regular aisles.

1793 (*Jan 24*).—At a meeting held at the Assembly Rooms, in Newcastle, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of establishing a Literary and Philosophical Society in that town, a committee was appointed, and it was resolved, that the first general meeting should be held at the Dispensary, on Thursday, February the 7th. After its formation, its meetings were held in a room in St. Nicholas' church-yard, and its library was commenced in 1795, and three years after the whole of its property

was removed to the old Assembly Rooms, in the Groat Market, where it remained until 1825, when the new building in Westgate-street was finished.

1793 (*Feb. 14*).—Died, Brass Crosby, esq., the patriotic alderman of London. Mr. Crosby, was born at Stockton, May the 8th, 1725, and was the son of Mr. Hercules Crosby of that place, and of Mary, one of the daughters and heiresses of John Brass, of Black-halls, esq. He was placed with Ben. Hoskins, esq., a solicitor of great eminence at Sunderland, and removing to London, he pursued his profession with great industry and integrity. In 1764 he served the office of sheriff; in 1765 was elected alderman of Bread-street ward; and in 1770 he attained the highest honour of the city, in which capacity, having pursued the independent spirit of his predecessors, Beckford and Trecothick, he was committed to the Tower by the House of Commons (of which he was a member) for liberating a printer of the debates in parliament, who had been arrested by a messenger of the House, in the city of London, without the authority of a city magistrate. This event involved the question of publishing the debates in both houses, which, previous to this time, had been inserted in the public prints, under the titles of the debates in Lilliput, of the Robin Hood Society, &c., and the speakers were designated under Roman or fictitious names. On the termination of the session of parliament, he left the Tower accompanied by alderman Oliver (committed under similar circumstances) under a discharge of 21 guns belonging to the artillery company, and was escorted to the Mansion-house by fifty-three carriages. At night the city was illuminated. On the conclusion of his mayoralty, he received the thanks of the corporation and a silver cup of 200*l.* value, which still remains in the possession of his family. The obelisk in St. George's Fields was inscribed to his memory. He received addresses from several counties and towns, &c., in England, and the corporation of the Trinity-house, and 24 of the incorporated companies of Newcastle sent addresses of thanks to him and Oliver whilst they were confined in the Tower, complimenting them for the determined stand they had made in defence of the liberties of the people. There is a fine portrait of Mr. Crosby in Surtees' History of Durham, and a memoir of his life was published in 1829.

March 18.—The sailors at Shields, to the amount of 500, assembled in a riotous manner, armed with swords, pistols, and other weapons, and made an attempt to seize the Eleanor, tender, in order to rescue the impressed men on board, which was rendered abortive by the exertions of the officers of the impress service. The seamen next day attempted to come to Newcastle, but hearing that a strong civil and military force (the North York militia and the dragoons being under arms) were ready to receive them, they dispersed after have treated George Foster, one of the press-gang, with the utmost cruelty at Howdon Fans. Their pretext was, that the men were ill-treated on board the tender. On the information arriving in Newcastle that the sailors were on their way to

that town, the drums of the North York militia beat to arms, the alarm became general, and the streets were filled with people in a state of the greatest ferment. A body of the militia, with their commander, the earl of Fauconberg, at their head, marched from the guard-house adjoining to Newgate, to the house of rendezvous for impressed seamen in the Broad Chare, "and then marched back again," no appearance of danger having been discovered. The dragoons were also ordered to hold themselves in readiness to assemble on the instant the trumpet was sounded. The alarm, however, appeared to be totally unfounded, and the people's fears "went to bed with the sun."

1793 (*March 27*).—As a two-horse cart, laden with household furniture, was standing at the door of a house in Westgate-street, Newcastle, the horses took fright, and dragged along their charge with great violence to the entrance of Bailiff-gate, where some of the trappings breaking, the horses parted, the one running forwards towards Hanover-square, and the other with the cart continuing its course with unabated velocity along Bailiff-gate, and down the Long-stairs, till stopped in its further progress by the narrowness of the stairs near the bottom. No lives were lost, nor did the horse or goods sustain any material injury. A private in the North York militia endeavouring to prevent the horses running, was thrown down, trampled on, and severely bruised.

April 7.—Died, at Sunderland, Mrs. Mary Hogg, aged 102 years. She retained all her faculties to the last.

April 26.—Most extraordinary preparations for impressing were made by the crews of the armed vessels lying in Shields harbour. That night the regiment at Tynemouth barracks was drawn up and formed into a *cordon* round North Shields to prevent any person from escaping. The different press-gangs then began, when sailors, mechanics, labourers, and men of every description, to the amount of two hundred and fifty, were forced on board the armed ships.

June 10.—A fire broke out in the bake-houses of Mr. John Graham, in Berwick, which raged so violently, that in a short time the whole were reduced to ashes, together with the stock in trade contained in the same.

This month, a house, the property of Anthony Leaton, esq., at Hoppyland, in the county of Durham, was maliciously set on fire and burnt down. A fine oak tree was also bored into, and blasted into shivers with gunpowder.

July 23.—Died, at Norton, near Stockton, the Rev. John Wallis, M. A. He was a native of Cumberland, and, after spending a few years in the south of England, became curate of Simonburn, in Northumberland; here he wrote the "Natural History and Antiquities of Northumberland," which was published in 1769, in 2 vols. 4to., being the result of more than twenty years' study. After leaving Simonburn, he became curate, *pro tempore*, at Haughton, near Darlington, in 1775, and immediately after, removed to the curacy of Billingham, near Stockton. In 1792, he resigned this living on account of increasing infirmities, and retired to Norton.

1793 (*July 23*).—A fire broke out in the workshop of Mr. William Corner, joiner, in the New-street, Gateshead, which, in a few hours, entirely consumed the same, and did considerable damage to an adjoining house.

August 12.—The silver quiver was shot for on the town-moor, Newcastle, by the bowmen of Chevy Chase, and won by Nicholas Ridley, esq., who was also "Captain of numbers."

August 14.—Walter Clark and Margaret Dunn were executed at Morpeth, pursuant to their sentences, for burglaries. Clark behaved in confinement, and at the gallows, with great penitence. Margaret Dunn, who had been found guilty of stealing cash and wearing apparel from a house in Corbridge, asserted that she fell a victim to the crime of another woman. Clark was the father of the two unfortunate girls who were hanged the preceding year with Winter. See *August 10th, 1792.*

Same day, a fire broke out at Red Barn, in Rookhope, in the county of Durham, which consumed six cottages.

August 20.—Died, in All Saints' poor-house, Newcastle, Margaret Pearson, aged 104 years.

August 22.—The Northumberland archers held their adjourned meeting at Morpeth, when the gold medal for "Captain of the target" was won by Lancelot Heron, of Morpeth, and the silver medal for "Captain of numbers," by Mr. Bell, of Gallow-hill house.

September.—The spire of the church at Chester-le-Street having been taken down, was at this time being rebuilt. It is a lofty spire, and seen at a great distance.

September 17.—The Infirmary at Durham was opened for the reception of patients, on which occasion a very excellent sermon was preached at the cathedral church by the Rev. Dr. Dampier, one of the prebendaries, and dean of Rochester. After the service was ended, a collection was made at the door, which amounted to 54*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* A procession commenced from the Palace Green to the Infirmary, consisting of the bishop of the diocese, the dean and prebendaries of the cathedral, the mayor and corporation of the city, Mr. Burdon, one of the county members, Mr. Clavering, of Greencroft, the gentlemen of the faculty, the parochial clergy, and a number of other respectable inhabitants of Durham, benefactors and subscribers to this excellent charity. After inspecting the building, &c., the company dined at Shotton's. The building was commenced the preceding year in Allergate, on a plot of ground given by Thomas Wilkinson, esq. March 22d, 1793, the tragedy of Cato was represented at the theatre, Durham, to assist the funds of this institution; the parts of Cato and Juba being performed by W. Eddis and W. Smith, esqrs., of that city, which characters they supported throughout with great success. An excellent prologue was written for the occasion by Mr. Cawdell, the manager, and admirably delivered by him. The house was full in every part, and the sum of fifty guineas was paid into the hands of the treasurer of the Infirmary.

September 24.—Being the day appointed for laying the foundation

stone of the iron bridge at Wearmouth, a grand masonic procession took place from the Phoenix Lodge, at 11 o'clock, to church, accompanied with a great number of magistrates, commissioners, clergy, military officers, &c., when an excellent sermon was preached by the Rev. Mr. Heskett, from 1 Thess. chap. 5. ver. 8., after which, the procession crossed the river on a platform, made on keels, to the place where the stone was to be laid on the north shore. Arrived at the spot, Mr. Burdon, the projector of the bridge, addressed the assembly in a very able speech. The inscription on the plate being read, Mr. Burdon deposited the plate, and laid the stone with the usual ceremonies, assisted by William Henry Lambton, esq., M. P. and P. G. M., and the grand officers. The grand honours were then given by the brethren, to which succeeded a salute of 21 guns, the band playing "God save the King," amidst the shouts of applause from the surrounding multitude. The grand chaplain (Rev. Mr. Nesfield) afterwards gave a most excellent oration, which he delivered with great energy. The procession then returned across the river to the Sea Captains' Lodge, where it closed. The company afterwards dined at the Phoenix-hall. The last block of metal which completed the arch of this bridge, was placed by the workmen in September 1795. June 18th, 1796, lieutenant general Sir George Osborne, at the head of the royal Tay fencibles, and the North Lincoln militia, both quartered in Sunderland barracks, amounting to at least 1,000 men, marched across this bridge to be reviewed on Whitburn Sands. They were the first military corps that passed over that superb edifice. August the 9th, 1796, this bridge was opened for general use in the presence of his royal highness Prince William of Gloucester, after a splendid masonic ceremony and procession, on which occasion, Rowland Burdon, esq., was appointed, *pro tempore*, provincial grand-master. On that day all the shops remained closed, and it was computed that 80,000 people were assembled on the different sides of the river, but of so large an assemblage it is impossible to decide with any precision. This magnificent structure was completed within three years, and the whole expense of the undertaking, including interest up to the period of its opening, was 35,000*l.*, of which 30,000*l.* was subscribed by Mr. Burdon; with whom the idea of building such a grand structure originated. This, when completed, was said to be the largest arch in the world. In October 1799, Mr. Carr, cabinet-maker, in Sunderland, completed a model of this structure, consisting of nearly 9,000 pieces of wood, upon the small scale of two-tenths of an inch to the foot; yet every joint and bolt was in regular proportion, and exhibited a perfect semblance of the original, although the whole was not five feet long.

1793 (*Oct. 10*).—Some execrable villains set fire to a considerable stack-yard, at Fleetham, in Northumberland, which not only consumed the same, but several barns, byers, &c. contiguous thereto. The perpetrators of this diabolical act were supposed to be two women (or their accomplices) whom the farmer, Mr. John Howson, found in his house juggling his family, under pretext of fortune-

telling, whom he forcibly thrust out, after their having loaded him with many and dreadful imprecations.

1793 (*Oct. 15*).—Died, in Saville-row, Newcastle, Mr. William Chapman, at an advanced age. Mr. C., among other useful discoveries and improvements, was the first who, about the year 1758, gave the idea, and at sea established by practice, of the invaluable secret of making salt water fresh; the particulars of which are stated in a letter addressed to Dr. Fothergill, and by him published and presented to the Royal Society.

November 2.—A dreadful fire broke out in the shop of Mr. Richardson, painter and glazier, at the head of the Painter Heugh, Newcastle, which could not be extinguished till the whole of the house above, and one adjoining, were nearly destroyed.

December 27.—An explosion took place in the Hope-pit, at Sheriff-hill colliery, when fourteen human beings were hurried into eternity.

This month, died at Ravensworth, George M'Lauren, in the 100th year of his age, many years servant to Lord Ravensworth.

This year, the corporation of Newcastle lost a trial at York, concerning the coal revenue; which greatly affected their income, in consequence of which most of the officers of the town had their salaries reduced.

Bereness chapel, in the parish of Elsdon, in Northumberland, was rebuilt this year by voluntary subscription. The old chapel had been long in ruins.

1794 (*Jan. 24*).—The Good Intent, in Sunderland harbour, was discovered to be on fire; and before assistance could be had, the fire raged in such a manner as greatly alarmed every beholder: providentially, however, the tide being then up, and the weather moderately calm, the vessel was removed into the middle of the river, which prevented the flames communicating to any other. But the fire was not completely got under before several of her guns, which happened, at that time, to be loaded, went off, and nearly the whole of her inside, in the after-part, was consumed. This accident was owing to the carelessness of the boys, who had left a lamp burning on board.

January 25.—On the morning, a most dreadful storm commenced at Newcastle, in a most sudden manner; the wind blew from the north a perfect hurricane; it was preceded by lightning, and the highest vanes of St. Nicholas and Gateshead churches having been destroyed, it was supposed that they had been struck by the electric fire. Several coal keels were lost in the river; five ships of considerable value were driven from their moorings in Shields harbour into Jarrow Slake. The Barbara, of Shields, was driven upon the Herd Sand, and went to pieces; the Orwell, of South Shields, suffered the same fate. The Hazard, of Sunderland, also went ashore at the same place, and the Alexander and Margaret was driven upon the rocks at the north side of the harbour; the crews were all saved. In the evening of the same day, three men were lost on the military road, about fourteen miles west of Newcastle;

they found themselves unable to proceed with their carts, and were endeavouring to reach home with their horses. A man named Emmerson, was also lost the same evening, between Newcastle and Shields. At Sunderland, on the above (Saturday) morning, the river Wear was in the most violent agitation; numbers of vessels drove from their moorings, and one had her sails torn entirely to pieces. At Hartlepool, Redcar, Marak, Saltburn, &c. great damage was done to the shipping; indeed, so destructive was the storm, that the whole coast presented a dismal display of the havoc it had caused. Upon the high lands, in the west parts of Northumberland, the storm was very destructive; many thousands of sheep were destroyed, several shepherds also lost their lives; four of them were buried at one church in Northumberland.

1794 (*Feb. 12*).—Died, in Newcastle, Mr. Gilbert Gray, book-binder, in the 85th year of his age, an honest industrious man, who had been employed by Mr. Slack, and his son-in-law and successor, Mr. Solomon Hodgson, nearly forty years; he had previously been a shopman to Allan Ramsay, at the time he composed his "*Gentle Shepherd*." Though in humble life, and tinctured with eccentricities, those who knew his worth greatly respected his character. He was the father of Mr. George Gray, the eminent fruit-painter. See *December 9th*, 1819. There is a small engraved portrait of Mr Gilbert Gray, done for private distribution.

March 9.—About noon, the impressed men, assisted by the volunteers, on board of the Eleanor tender, lying at Shields, commanded by Lieutenant C. King, taking the advantage of the crew being at dinner, made a sudden and most desperate attack upon the sentinels, and obtained possession of the ship, and in all probability would have effected their escape, but for the spirited and resolute conduct of the officers and crew, who, after a most desperate contest, wherein several were wounded on both sides, secured the greater part of the insurgents, and regained possession of the ship; notwithstanding several got to the shore, most of whom were afterwards taken.

March 11.—The foundation stone of the Cordwainers'-hall and leather warehouse, in the High-bridge, Newcastle, was laid; JOHN TALINTYRE and JOHN RATCLIFFE, stewards. They were built at the expense of the company of cordwainers. The first meeting in the new hall was held August 25th, 1794.

March 28.—About one o'clock in the morning, the bakehouse of Mr. Robert Barton, situated on the Boatbuilders'-quay, South Shields, was discovered to be on fire, which raged with such violence, that in a short time the building was entirely consumed, together with the utensils and stock.

May 11.—A violent storm of hail, attended by thunder and lightning, happened at Durham. The electric fluid entered the upper part of the house belonging to Lowther Rutter, esq. in that city, which forced its way through several of the apartments, and did considerable damage. It afterwards penetrated the house of Mrs. Smith adjoining, melted and broke all the bell-wires, tore the

wainscot and paper in several of the rooms, and set fire to two gowns that were hanging on the back of a chair, which Mrs. Smith, with wonderful presence of mind, extinguished with the carpet. No person was injured in either of the families.

1794 (*May 28*).—About six o'clock in the evening, the bakehouse belonging to Mr. Mollison, at the foot of the Side, Newcastle, was discovered to be on fire, and before proper assistance could be procured, the flames had communicated to the dwelling-house, which, with the premises behind, were entirely consumed.

This month, a dispensary was established in Villiers'-street, Bishopwearmouth, supported by voluntary contributions.

June 1.—This day, admiral Earl Howe totally defeated the French fleet, by taking six ships of war, and sinking several others, on which occasion, on the arrival of the news in Newcastle, there were great rejoicings, ringing of bells, &c.

June 5.—Dorothy Ransom was buried at Hartlepool, aged 105 years.

June 9.—An explosion took place in Picktree colliery, near Chester-le-Street, by which about thirty men lost their lives. Twenty-seven were buried in one grave, in Chester church-yard.

June 11.—An explosion took place in Harraton colliery, by which twenty-eight human beings lost their lives.

July.—There was a dispute between the keelmen of the Tyne and their employers. The keelmen did considerable damage to the staiths, and compelled many of the pitmen to leave their work; they also attempted to stop the workmen in the iron-works at Swalwell, which was prevented by a party of military. Eight keelmen were apprehended and committed to Newgate, Newcastle, but were afterwards sent off, under a guard of horse, to Durham. The military employed on this occasion were the North York and West York militias, and the Durham Rangers.

This year, died Francis Bone, of Tinker-row, near Ravensworth, aged 104 years.

Died, at Berwick, John Cheeseman, a native of Hexham, aged 110 years. He enlisted as a soldier when twenty years of age, and served in the army forty-one years, when he was discharged, and received a pension forty-nine years. He retained all his faculties, and could read without spectacles till the day of his death. He got a new front tooth about three weeks before he died.

Lowick church, in Northumberland, was this year built. It will contain about 500 people.

An elegant theatre was this year built in Hide-hill, Berwick, by Mr. Stephen Kemble; previous to which time, plays had been performed in the Town-hall, and sometimes in a house in Golden-square.

A general inclosure of commons, within the parish of Chester-le-Street, took place under an act of parliament passed this year. The several wastes divided were, Chester South moor, Chester West moor, Whitehill moor, Plawsworth moor, Edmonsley moor, and Pelton moor. Sixpence an acre was reserved to the see of Durham for ever.

1794.—In ploughing a field, on the north-east side of the Roman station at Lanchester, a plain votive altar, twenty inches in height, with an inscription, was discovered.

Sunderland barracks were erected this year. They were put in commission in the beginning of the following year, the first barrack-master being appointed March 25th, 1795.

Formerly on the Sandhill, and at this time on the Quay, near the bridge, Newcastle, were people (chiefly women) who, in the open street, on market days, performed the office of barber, at one half of the regular price.



This year, the Town-court, or Guildhall and Exchange, in Newcastle, underwent a complete alteration, chiefly in that part which looks towards the Sandhill. The whole of the front was entirely cased anew with freestone, as were also the pillars in the Exchange. The remains of the old steeple and stair-case were entirely taken down, and the present front newly rebuilt. The south front was also cased with freestone, in 1809. Previous to this alteration, there was an entrance into the Exchange from the south as well as from the north. The above cut shews the north front, as it at present appears.

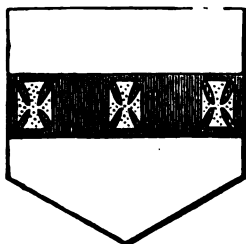
1795 (*Feb. 11*).—The ice in the river Tees, at Stockton, which had been frozen over for five weeks, broke up, which raised the river to a greater height than was ever remembered, being seven or eight inches higher than the great flood in 1771. Much damage was sustained in the warehouses, and the blocks of ice which were left presented the appearance of a frozen sea.

This month, a dreadful fire broke out in the neighbourhood of Bolam, in Northumberland, occasioned by a child, the son of the farmer, making a fire (as he said) to warm the cows, they were so cold. He lighted the straw, and came running to his mother to inform her that they would be warm now, for he had made them a good fire. When the poor woman went out, all was in a blaze, and it was with great difficulty their dwelling-house was saved. Two men were shockingly scorched in assisting to extinguish the flames.

1795 (*April 20*).—About eight o'clock in the evening, as the small ferry-boat was crossing from Sunderland to Monkwearmouth, at an ebb tide, and the passage being much obstructed by the shipping, the boat was set fast by a rope, which the boatman went on board to loosen, and one of the passengers, by imprudently attempting to push it off, unfortunately overset it. The number in the boat at the time was supposed to have been about twenty-seven, of whom only four or five were saved. Among those who suffered were, Mr. Brian Burleson, mercer; Mr. Hodgson, a methodist preacher; Mr. Joseph Jobson, a sheriff's officer; Watson, a shoemaker, and his wife; a young man, servant to Mr. Martin, mercer; a sergeant and a private in the North York militia; Miss Robson, of the Low Quay; a servant girl belonging to the North Shore; a sailor's wife; a young lady genteelly dressed, who appeared to be a stranger, &c. &c.

June 30.—His royal highness Prince William of Gloucester, arrived at Brodie's tavern (*Turk's Head*), in the *Bigg Market*, Newcastle, from the north.

July.—The beginning of this month, encampments were formed at the undermentioned places, on the coasts of Durham and Northumberland, which were composed of the following regiments:—Hendon.—Northumberland militia, Roxburghshire fencibles, and the Berwickshire fencibles, commanded by General Dalrymple. Whitburn.—8th regiment of foot, Durham militia, and Durham fencibles, by General Osborne. Whitley.—37th regiment of foot, royal Lancashire volunteers, North York militia, and a considerable park of artillery, by Lord Mulgrave. Hartley.—4th dragoons, 21st light dragoons, 44th regiment of foot, 115th ditto (*Prince William's*), and the 1st West York militia, by Prince William of Gloucester. Coopen.—7th light dragoons, 16th ditto, 55th regiment of foot, 84th ditto, and the Leicestershire militia, by General Balfour. The camps broke up in October.



July 26.—Died, the Rev. William Romaine, A. M. Mr. Romaine, who was born at Hartlepool, on the 25th of September, 1714, was educated at Houghton-le-Spring, and afterwards sent to Oxford, where he was first entered at Hertford college, and thence removed to Christ Church. Mr. R. was rector of Andrews-by-the-Wardrobe, and St. Ann's, Blackfriars, and lecturer of St. Dunstan's in the West, London. He was a very eloquent and popular preacher, and a truly pious and good man. His works have been published in eight volumes.

August 8.—Thomas Nicholson, convicted of the murder of Thomas Purvis, was executed on the Town Moor, Newcastle, pursuant to his sentence; after his conviction, he shewed great proofs of contrition; he confessed the justice of his sentence, but declared he did not strike the deceased with an intention of murdering him.

His body was sent to the surgeon's-hall for dissection. This murder took place during the races at Newcastle. Purvis, and a party of pitmen, having had some words in a tent upon the moor, the latter way-laid him and used him in such a dreadful manner as caused his death. Nicholson only suffered, as it was stated, that after they left Purvis, he to complete the horrid act, returned and jumped upon the body.

1795 (*Aug. 25*).—The Newcastle volunteers, were embodied in the Forth, preparatory to their receiving the colours designed for the corps, and after going through various evolutions, Mrs. Mayoress (Mrs. Johnson), made her appearance and presented them to Col. Blakeney, the commanding officer, with an animated address, to which the colonel made a suitable reply. The corps then fired three volleys, and marched to the colonel's house, where the colours were deposited.

August 26.—At six o'clock on the morning, the Newcastle Volunteers assembled in front of the lodgings of his royal highness the duke of York, in Pilgrim Street, (he having arrived in Newcastle, late the preceding night,) and waited till near nine o'clock, when his royal highness walked out to inspect the ranks, and after due examination, was pleased to express the highest approbation of their discipline. During the stay of his royal highness in Newcastle, the mayor and aldermen waited upon him, and presented him with the freedom of that corporation.

August 27.—His royal highness proceeded to the coast to inspect the regiments then in camp, and on the following morning (*Friday*), the drums beat to arms in the several encampments, on the sea coast, between the rivers Tyne and Blyth; and between six and seven o'clock, the whole army, consisting of near 7,000, took its ground on Blyth sands, extending in length between three and four miles. Precisely at seven o'clock, his royal highness the duke of York, field-marshal and commander-in-chief of his Majesty's forces, attended by his excellency Sir William Howe, commander of the northern district, and their several aides-de-camp, came upon the ground, and rode along the line, after which, the army went through various evolutions and firings, accompanied by the field and flying artillery; and at eleven o'clock the review finished, much to the satisfaction of his royal highness, and upwards of 30,000 spectators. After the review, his royal highness returned to Newcastle, where he partook of an entertainment provided at the Mansion-house. The following is a list of the company who dined on this occasion, viz. :—Francis Johnson, esq., mayor; Archibald Reed, esq., sheriff; his royal highness the duke of York, and three aides-de-camp; his royal highness Prince William of Gloucester, and three aides-de-camp; Sir William Howe, K. B., and two aides-de-camp; his grace the duke of Norfolk; Lord Scarborough; Lord Fauconberg; Lord Mulgrave, and aid-de-camp; Lord Dundas; General Smith, and aid-de-camp; General Balfour, and aid-de-camp; Colonel Blakeney; Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., and Charles Brandling, esq., members for Newcastle; Admiral Roddam; Captain Rothe; Captain

Byng ; Rev. Henry Ridley, chaplain ; the magistrates of the town, &c. &c. &c.

1795 (*Aug. 29*).—His royal highness the duke of York visited the camps between the Tyne and the Wear, as well as those southward of the latter river. On his entering the town of Sunderland, he was received by the loyal Sunderland volunteers, with a royal salute from the batteries of 21 guns, which was also repeated on his leaving the town. After having seen the bridge, barracks, and other works of that town, he reviewed the volunteers in the upper battery, where he was pleased to express in high terms, his satisfaction at the appearance, discipline, and exercise of the corps.

September 7 and 8.—The 29d, or Ulster regiment of light dragoons, which had just been raised in Ireland, arrived in Newcastle, and on the 9th, after various meetings of the privates, they expressed a determination not to suffer themselves to be draughted into other regiments. It was said, that they were ordered to be incorporated with Colonel Beaumont's light dragoons (the 21st), to which they were utterly disinclined ; and in the evening, they assembled in various parts of the town, in rather a tumultuous manner, but were not the occasion of any ill consequences. About five o'clock, some of them broke open the repository for the regimental stores, and took from thence a large supply of powder and balls. About nine o'clock at night, the 4th regiment of dragoons, and about eleven, the 37th regiment of foot, arrived in Newcastle, from the camps, some of whom paraded the streets during the night, others were stationed as sentinels at all the gates of the town, and different parties were employed in dispossessing the mutinous regiment of the arms and ammunition they had furnished themselves with. The next morning they were drawn up in Northumberland-street, when General Smith explained to them the propriety of the measure they revolted at ; and after hearing their complaints of not having received the bounty they had been promised, the general assured them that all their arrears should be paid off before twelve o'clock the next day, which restored tranquillity. The following is a copy of a small handbill, which arose out of this affray :—

“ A CAUTION to the Inhabitants of Newcastle upon Tyne.

“ As there is reason to suppose, that some ill-disposed people in town, are endeavouring to foment disturbances amongst the military ;—*This is earnestly to request*, That all the sober-minded inhabitants will refrain from collecting in the Streets, lest from an idle Curiosity, they should mix with those ill-intentioned People, and expose themselves to the Misfortunes that may happen.

“ *Mansion-house, 9th Sept. 1795.*”

September 8.—His grace the duke of Norfolk, ascended into the lantern of the highest spire of St. Nicholas church, in Newcastle. He afterwards gave two guineas to the workmen employed. The steeple at this time was being repaired and painted.

November 10.—A number of workmen employed in the neighbourhood assembled in Newcastle, and in the several markets seized

the different articles of provision, which they, in the presence of the town's officers, sold out to poor and labouring people at reduced prices; the butter, intended to be conveyed to the hucksters, they retailed at 8d. per lb.; the wheat then in the market at 12s. per boll (the ordinary price in former years); and, after obtaining a knowledge of the depositories of the forestallers of potatoes, they sold them publicly at 5s. per load, and immense quantities were disposed of at that rate. Except the above outrages, no injurious acts of riot were attempted; every person received the stated value for his property, and no personal injury was offered.



1795.—This year, the old gate called Pandon Gate, in Newcastle, was removed. That this gate was ancient to a proverb, is well known at Newcastle, nothing being more general than, when the inhabitants would describe the great antiquity of any thing to say, "*It's as old as Pandon-gate.*" The gate of the Wall-knoll (now the Carpenters' Tower) and the whole of the town wall across Pandon, may be considered of Roman origin, being exactly on the site of the Roman wall. Pandon-gate stood across the foot of Pandon-bank, a little from the Stock-bridge. The old house, as shewn in the cut, has recently been modernized, and the lower apartment turned into a shop. The steps between it and the gate were those which then led to Mount Pleasant: the house opposite stood on the ground which is at present occupied by a steam corn-mill. The

preceding cut is taken from an original drawing by the late Rev. Mr. Hornby, son of Alderman Hugh Hornby, esq.

1795.—This year, when the workmen were taking up the foundations of the chapel at Cambo, in Northumberland, for the purpose of building a barn and hemmel, they found some curiously sculptured grave stones, or covers of stone coffins, being sepulchral remains of the ancient lords and dames of Cambo. They were carefully preserved in the new erections.

1796. (*Jan. 20*).—Died, at Wolsingham, Mr. Robert Wilson, aged 100 years.

February.—There was an explosion in New Washington colliery, by which six persons lost their lives.

February 25.—The bakehouse of Mr. Hallowell, of North Shields, took fire, and burnt with such fury as entirely to destroy the building, with every thing it contained.

March 2.—Died at Sunnyside, in the county of Durham, Joseph Durham, aged 101 years. He had been in the army, and mounted guard at Whitehall, London, eighty-one years before his death.

This month, died, near Rothbury, Mr. William Charters, aged 105 years.

April 1.—The Reverend Thomas Browning, minister of the Postern meeting-house, in Newcastle, laid the foundation of a new meeting-house, upon a more extensive plan, near the Postern-gate; after which he preached an excellent sermon. January the 1st, 1797, it was opened for public worship.

April 21.—His royal highness the duke of Bourbon, son of the prince of Condé, passed through Newcastle, on his road from Edinburgh to London.

April 25.—The horse artillery, the 4th dragoons, the Newcastle volunteers, and the Leicestershire militia, were drawn up on the Town Moor, Newcastle, and inspected by Lieutenant-general Sir George Osborne, previously to their being reviewed by him. There was a sham battle between the horse artillery and the foot soldiers; after a short resistance the artillery gave way, and the foot pursued them from the low side of the moor to the Cow-hill, when the dragoons coming up to their assistance, they put the artillery totally to the rout.

May 13.—Died, at Kirkwhelpington, in Northumberland, Mr. William Stephenson, aged 103 years.

May 16.—Died, in the workhouse at Durham, aged 85 years, *Thomas French*, well known in that city by the fictitious title of the *duke of Baubleshire*, which, on the decline of his understanding he assumed, and wherein he seemed to have more pride than any peer of the realm adorned with a real one. He wore a star composed of pieces of cloth of different colours, or of painted paper, on the breast of his *spencer*, a cockade in his hat, and several brass curtain rings on his fingers. He was so enthusiastically enraptured with his visionary dignity, as to imagine he had frequent correspondence with the king on the subject of raising men, carrying on

the war, and other important matters of state. A portrait of this eccentric was done in lithography at Durham.

1796 (*May 30*).—His royal highness prince William of Gloucester arrived in Newcastle, to take upon him the command of the troops in that district. June 23d, his royal highness was pleased to command the performance of "*The Fashionable Lover*," and "*Netley Abbey*" at the theatre royal, Newcastle. The house was crowded in every part, and his royal highness seemed happy with the respect paid to him by a most brilliant audience.

June 29.—The Newcastle volunteers were reviewed on the Town Moor by his royal highness prince William of Gloucester, who was pleased to express the highest approbation of the martial appearance and precision of manœuvre displayed by the corps.

This month, died, at the Blue Quarries on Gateshead-fell, Dorothy Atkinson, aged 109 years. She retained her faculties to the last.

July.—The beginning of this month, military encampments were formed on the coast of Northumberland. The camps broke up the beginning of October.

July 12.—About twelve o'clock at night, as the crew of the *Dunn*, an Ipswich trader, were returning on board their vessel in the river Tyne at St. Anthony's, near Newcastle, they were overtaken by a sudden and heavy shower of rain, which drove them for shelter to whatever presented an appearance of a covering. The coal pit there was the nearest, and thither they ran as quick as possible; but either not knowing the nature of their sanctuary, or from some other cause, the mate, Joseph Smith, fell into it, and was hurried in an instant to the depth of thirty-five fathoms. Providentially the pit-rope had been left in its place by the workmen, and this he had the good fortune to seize in his fall, which, at thirty-five fathoms, was broken by the corf chain, otherwise he must have descended eighty fathoms, the depth of the pit. In this miserable situation he was suspended full half an hour, when his companions above having procured proper assistance, he was drawn out. His hands were dreadfully mangled by the friction of the rope.

July 20.—The elegant and commodious new chapel at Haydon-bridge was consecrated by the lord bishop of Durham.

August 18.—From a great quantity of rain having fallen, the rivers and brooks were swelled to an uncommon degree, which was attended with the most tragical effects. A youth about sixteen, the son of Mr. Watson, of Swarland, in Northumberland, in attempting to ford a brook in that neighbourhood, was drowned by the falling of his horse. At Morpeth two young women of most excellent characters, the daughters of Mr. Thomas Purdy, gardener, were carried away by the current and lost. They were washing turnips for sale, by the side of the Wansbeck at that place, when one of them attempting to catch a piece of timber which was floating down, unfortunately slipped into the stream, and her sister attempting to save her, shared the same fate, in the presence of their distracted parents, who could yield them no assistance. The body

of one was found the next day at no great distance from the fatal spot, the other was not discovered till the third day (Sunday), nearly four miles down the river. One of them was on the point of marriage with an industrious man in the neighbourhood, who very narrowly escaped the same misfortune in attempting to cross with a team. On the Monday the bodies of the young women were interred together, amidst the tears of their surrounding friends and acquaintances.

1796 (*Sept.* 19).—An alarming fire broke out on board the ship *Lady Alleyne*, lying near the lower end of North Shields. The vessel being afloat, it was immediately cut adrift, and towed out from amongst the other ships, which, together with his majesty's floating battery, the *Redoubt*, narrowly escaped the flames. The wind being from the south-east, the whole town of North Shields, and the shipping in the harbour, ran the greatest hazard of being consumed; but happily (the gunpowder having been taken out of the ship in the forenoon, and the guns being unloaded) the boats from the *Redoubt*, tenders, and other ships, conducted the burning vessel down through the Narrows, and by the help of the ebb-tide, got it to ground below Tynemouth barracks.

September 20.—About ten o'clock at night, as a gentleman's servant was returning to Newcastle upon a young and spirited horse, the animal took fright near Sandyford-stone, and the rider being unable to recover one of the stirrups which he had lost, he was carried full speed along the lane, Percy-street, Newgate-street, and Low Friar-street, at the end of which, where Fenkle-street crosses it, (the horse still pursuing a straight forward course) darted with such violence against the parlour window of Mr. Edward Smith, joiner and cabinet-maker, in Fenkle-street, as to dash it to pieces in a moment, though defended by a strong shutter on the outside. During the whole of this perilous excursion, the man was fortunate enough to keep his seat; and except a little skin from the forehead of the horse, no other damage was sustained but the loss of the window, which was replaced by the owner of the animal.

September 21.—The bridge at Wooler, in Northumberland, was thrown down by a great flood. The bridge had only been finished three years.

September.—By the pricking of an old waste filled with water at Slatyford, in Northumberland, six persons unfortunately lost their lives.

September.—So great had been the importation of grain into Newcastle for some time, that no warehouse-room could be obtained for storing it, and, in consequence, temporary wooden buildings were erected in a field adjoining the New Road, behind Sandgate, for 120,000 bushels. This place has ever since been called "*Egypt*" no doubt in allusion to those erected by Joseph in ancient Egypt. Those erections in 1803 were converted into barracks, but have since become a depôt of corn.

October 3.—His royal highness prince William of Gloucester arrived at Sunderland, and took the command of the troops in that place.

1796 (*Oct. 5*).—The Eclipse, Beaver, and Manchester, transports, arrived at Shields from Guernsey and Jersey, with 295 emigrant clergy, and ten women on board, under convoy of the serpent sloop of war, W. C. Staples esq., commander. One of these unfortunate strangers fell overboard and perished the night they arrived. October 8th, a transport with 150 of these emigrants sailed round from Shields to Sunderland, where they took up their residence in Sunderland barracks.

October 18.—The timber-yard of Mr. Mawman, boat-builder, at the high end of North Shields, was discovered to be on fire, which, in a short time, increased to such a degree, that almost the whole of his stock was destroyed, to the amount of upwards of 300*l*.

October 21.—The round stone on the top of the steeple of All Saints' church, in Newcastle, was placed by the workmen; after it was laid, a man named Burdikin, a private in the Cheshire militia, raised his body upon his head, with his feet in the air, and remained in that inverted position for some time upon this stone, which is 194 feet from the ground. This man resides at present in Gateshead. I have a memoir of him written by himself. In this piece of auto-biography he relates many *hair-breadth escapes, and curious adventures* which he has performed.

October 29.—Died, at Kenmore, in Perthshire, Scotland, in the 26th year of his age, of a fever in the brain, Mr. Robert Johnson, painter and engraver. He was born at Shotley, in Northumberland. His father, Thomas Johnson, who was a joiner and cabinet-maker, removed to Gateshead, in order to indulge his son's propensity for drawing and engraving, and accordingly Robert was placed under Mr. Thomas Bewick. During his apprenticeship he was much employed in drawing, in which department he made great proficiency. Some of his pieces executed during his leisure hours, were purchased by gentlemen of taste, amongst whom may be mentioned the earl of Bute. About the year 1793, when politics ran so very high, he designed and etched three curious caricatures, viz.:—" *The Overthrow, or the Crisis is Awful and Momentous*;" " *A real Friend to his Country begs*;" and " *The Asses in Danger*." These were intended to ridicule the ultra-toryism of the late Joseph Whitfield, bookseller, opposite to the Bridge-end, Newcastle. The person represented is a very good likeness of Mr. Whitfield, who was lame of a leg. Mr. Johnson made an excellent drawing of St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, from the north, which has never been surpassed. It was engraved on wood by Mr. Charlton Nesbit. See *May 27th*, 1796. He also made a drawing of Sunderland Bridge, which was engraved by himself and Mr. Hunter. About six months after the expiration of his apprenticeship, he was engaged by the Messrs. Morrison, booksellers, of Perth, to reduce the set of portraits by Jamesone,* and was sent to Kenmore, the seat of the earl of Bredalbane, to copy them for Pinkerton's " *Gallery of Scottish*

* George Jamesone, an eminent painter, justly termed the Vandyke of Scotland, was born at Aberdeen in 1586, and died in 1614.

Portraits." He had finished fifteen, and there remained four to copy, when, by his premature death, the fine arts sustained an irreparable loss, as his genius was soaring rapidly to a pitch of the highest excellence. In a letter from the Messrs. Morrison to Mr. Pinkerton, dated 18th November 1796, it states, that a few days before they had received a letter from the man with whom Johnson lodged at the village of Kenmore, desiring them to send for him, as he was quite delirious, and by express the day following, they were informed of his death. That in his anxiety to complete his labour, he would sit all day in a room without a fire, a violent cold was the consequence, which, neglected, increased to a fever, "it flew to his brain, and, terrible to relate, he was bound with ropes, beat, and treated like a madman." This treatment was discontinued on the accidental arrival of a physician, who ordered blisters, and poor Johnson died in peace. A memorial was cut in wood, from one of his own designs, by his friend and fellow-apprentice, Mr. Charlton Nesbit. From this wood cut a limited number of impressions was taken off, with letter-press, recording his death, &c., attached. It is a scene in a country church-yard by moonlight, representing a female in tears leaning on a tomb, inscribed "In memory of R. Johnson, 1796." A stone is erected in Ovingham church-yard, recording his early fate.

1796 (*Nov. 8*).—A fire was discovered in a house occupied by Mr. Alexander Graham, gingerbread baker, in Hillgate, Gateshead, which it entirely consumed in a short time, with all the furniture. The family, with difficulty, escaped with their lives, being asleep in bed when the alarm was given, and no mode of escape left, but out of a window in the upper story, from whence they were taken.

November 25.—The town of Sunderland was alarmed by an affray, which broke out between the Westminster militia and the Lowland fencibles, both quartered there. It originated in the death of a tame goat belonging to the fencibles, which was wantonly killed by one of the militia. To appease the *manes* of their long-bearded play-fellow, which had followed the regiment out of Scotland, and was an universal favourite, the fencibles assembled under arms, and sent a defiance to their opponents, which was accepted; the parties were drawn up in battle array in the barrack ground, and the most bloody consequences were every moment expected, when the firm and strenuous exertions of his royal highness prince William of Gloucester, fortunately restored peace. The perpetrator was afterwards tried by a court martial.

November.—Died, at St. Helen's Auckland, in the county of Durham, at an advanced age, Mr. Michael Broadbelt, clock-maker; though self-taught, he was an excellent workman, and his general skill in mechanics, was displayed in a great variety of curious inventions.

December 27.—That delightful mansion, Witton-castle, in the county of Durham, which had not been long rebuilt, at a vast expense, was discovered to be on fire; the flames raged with such

violence, that all attempts to stop their progress were ineffectual. All the elegance of the internal structure was entirely destroyed, and the outer walls only left standing.

1796.—The seamen at Shields were extremely riotous this year, frequently depriving the masters of their command, and detaining vessels under way for sea. Seventy or eighty of the most audacious, however, having been taken into custody and impressed, order was again restored.

This year, a society was formed in Newcastle (to correspond with similar institutions in other parts) to propagate the Christian religion among Pagans, &c.

This year, the Shot Tower, at the lead-works at Low Elswick, near Newcastle, was commenced building. It was finished the following year, and *was* in height 175 feet 4 inches. It is a circular brick building, with a stone cupola, terminated by a chimney. On the 6th of August, 1814, during a thunder-storm, the electric fluid entered this building, and striking on the iron hand-rail of the winding staircase, it was conducted to the top of the tower, and forced its passage through the wall, a little below the cupola, tore off a quantity of plastering, then forcing its way up the chimney, threw off the top stones, which in their fall to the ground did no other damage than breaking down a part of the gallery, and penetrating the roof of an adjoining building, where some men were at work, who happily (except Edward Lonsdale slightly on the shoulder) escaped unhurt. Nearly all the windows in the tower were shivered to pieces by the violent shock,

At the west end of the village of Ryton, in the county of Durham, and near the church, stands a very neat cross of this date. In the church-yard is a stone coffin, with the year 1610 cut on the exterior of the head; and on the floor of the nave of the church is a figure cut in Stanhope marble, with a lion at the feet. On a panel in the front of the gallery, at the west end, is the following inscription:—"The gallery of Ambrose Crowley, and the company of Smiths at Winlaton, 1703." The arms of the company are neatly painted on an adjoining panel. The Ryton savings' bank was the first established in England.

1797 (*Feb. 12.*)—On the morning of this day (Sunday), whilst Charles Atkinson, esq., alderman and merchant of Newcastle, was walking with his son, amongst his coal-works, near Dunfermline, in Scotland, he went to examine the mouth of an old pit, and whilst looking down, a piece of timber on which he stood gave way, and precipitated him to the bottom, a depth of about 40 fathoms, 10 of which were supposed to be filled with water. It was several hours before his remains, which were considerably mangled, could be recovered. February the 19th, his remains were interred in the family burial-place in St. Nicholas' church, Newcastle, in the presence of an immense number of people, deeply impressed with the stern integrity of his principles, and to whom he was much endeared by the affability of his deportment as a magistrate, and his general conduct as a man.

A. D. 1796.

violence. All the elegances of the interior were destroyed, and the outer walls were ruined.

1796.—The season of 1796 was frequently denominated the year of the vessels under way by sea, however, having been taken and burnt, was again restored.

This year, a society was formed with similar institutions to those of religion among Pagans.

This year, the first tower near Newcastle was commenced, following year, and was a circular brick building with a chimney. In the winter the electric fluid entered the hand-pail of the winding machine, the tower, and tower is made up the chimney, three of the ground did not other damage, and penetrating the rest of the men were at work, who happened on the shoulder) escaped, the tower were destroyed in 1796.

At the west end of the tower, and near the church, is a figure cut in stone, and a panel in the front of the tower, with an inscription.—The pillars of the tower of Smiths at Newcastle, and neatly painted on the British fleet, was the first of the tower of All Saints' church, Newcastle, as did also the exhibition of trans-

1797 (1797) Charles A. walking to Scotland, looking at the towns in the two counties. August the 4th, 1804, which was the inn at Cornhill, in Northumbria to Scotland.

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1797 (*Feb. 18*).—In consequence of the alarm of invasion, and the scarcity of specie, the notes in circulation poured in so rapidly upon the banks in Newcastle, that the proprietors, at a meeting this day (*Saturday*) unanimously agreed, that if the demand for specie continued, they would, early on the *Monday*, suspend their payments for a short time, till they could provide an extraordinary supply of specie. The *Durham* and *Sunderland* banks were also obliged to adopt the same line of conduct. A great number of gentlemen and tradesmen, however, signed a declaration, to take, as before, the notes of all the banks in Newcastle, *Durham*, and *Sunderland*.

February 27.—At night the following relations slept together in one bed, in the *Middle-street*, Newcastle, viz.—1 grandmother, 2 mothers, 2 sisters-in-law, 1 daughter-in-law, 1 grandson, 1 aunt, 1 nephew, and 1 son; in all four persons.

March 24.—Died, at *Bamborough*, Mr. Henry Grey, innkeeper, aged 102 years.

May 18.—A most terrible thunder storm came on at Newcastle; the flashes of lightning were extremely vivid, and succeeded each other with great rapidity; the thunder was tremendously loud, and was accompanied with an incessant torrent of rain, which continued several hours. Two horses and a cow, in the neighbourhood of Newcastle, were so terrified, that they killed themselves in their stalls.

June 5.—Being the day appointed for the celebration of the birth-day of King George III., the *Sunderland* loyal volunteers were presented with an elegant pair of colours, by the lady of William Russell, esq., of *Brancepeth*.

June 13.—The foundation-stone of a new theatre at *North Shields* was laid in the presence of a large concourse of spectators. The Rev. Mr. Haswell delivered an extempore address on the occasion, which, as being both friendly and impressive, was well received. Mr. Q. Blackburn invited the gentlemen present to partake of a social bottle of wine with him, after the business was concluded, when success to the undertaking was drunk with great cheerfulness. The bells were rung most of the afternoon. January the 8th, 1798, it was opened by a masonic procession from the *Sion Lodge*, when was represented the comedy of "*Wives as they were, and Maids as they are,*" with other entertainments, under the management of Mr. Cawdell.

June.—Military encampments were formed on the coast of *Northumberland*. The camps broke up in *September*.

This month, in working a slate quarry near *Barnardcastle*, a toad of great magnitude was discovered in a large stone (solid, excepting the spot occupied by the incarcerated animal). The toad died immediately on being exposed to the air.

July 16.—There was a most terrible tempest of thunder, lightning, and rain, in the neighbourhood of Newcastle. To the eastward of that place, it was truly awful. At *Whitley-camp*, the lightning set fire to the whins placed as a facing to the sheds of

the East and West Lothian cavalry, and the wind blowing briskly, the whole line was almost instantly in a blaze; three of the horses were struck dead instantly, and two more nearly suffocated; the remainder were saved by the men having cut their collars on the first alarm. The poor animals, terrified by the fire in their front, and rendered desperately furious by the loud and almost incessant peals of thunder, and the quick and vivid flashes of lightning, galloped off in every direction; several of them, between eight and nine o'clock in the evening, came foaming through the streets of Newcastle, to the great danger and terror of the inhabitants, many of whom joined the men in pursuing and securing the exhausted animals. The fore top-mast of the *Good Intent*, in Shields harbour, was shivered by the lightning.

1797 (*Aug. 16*).—A fine set of eight bells, cast by Messrs. Mears, of London, for the beautiful spire of All Saints' church, in Newcastle, was on the above day landed on the Quay, at that place. October the 11th, they were rung for the first time, when a complete peal of grandsire triples, consisting of 5040 changes, were rung in three hours and one minute, by the Union Society of Newcastle and Gateshead, in celebration of Admiral Duncan's victory over the Dutch fleet off Camperdown.

September 19.—An affray took place in Newcastle, between the West Lowland fencibles quartered there and the Cheshire militia, who were passing through from Blyth camp to Carlisle. The inhabitants were very much alarmed, as some bloody scenes took place in various parts of the town, with bayonets, &c. and in the darkness and confusion of a nocturnal tumult, some of the town's people received blows and bruises. Near thirty of the military were wounded, some dangerously. The disturbance was finally suppressed by the Dumfries-shire light dragoons, who were called out and scoured the streets. General Este, next morning, on the parade, acquitted the militia of beginning the riot, and promised to bring the offenders to justice if they could be discovered.

October 19.—There was a grand illumination in Newcastle and Gateshead, in honour of the victory obtained by the British fleet, under Admiral Duncan, off Camperdown. The towers of All Saints' and Gateshead churches, made a brilliant show, as did also the Mansion-house, and many private houses, in the exhibition of transparencies. Several of the ships in the river also displayed a number of lamps. The Infirmary was brilliantly illuminated, which had a grand and imposing effect. Most of the towns in the two counties were illuminated on this occasion. August the 4th, 1804, Lord Viscount Duncan, died at the inn at Cornhill, in Northumberland, on his road from London to Scotland.

November 11.—A pig about eleven months old, which had been that morning (Saturday) carried in a cart covered with a sack, from Mr. Pemberton's farm at Cleadon, to his house at Barns, near Sunderland, a distance of nearly six miles, made its escape from the place of its confinement, and all search for it proved fruitless; it was traced near to Pallion, by the side of the river Wear, which it

must have crossed by swimming on Monday, as it returned to the fold from which it had been taken at Cleadon, about noon on Tuesday. A singular instance of the instinctive faculty in brutes.

1797 (*Nov. 22*).—During a very heavy storm, the *Felicity*, of Aberdeen, was driven into the bay between Holy Island and Waren, and in attempting to make the harbour, she got aground, and afterwards went to pieces. Duncan, the pilot, had his thigh bone broken, was washed overboard and drowned. The desperate situation of the crew drew a number of commiserating spectators to the beach, one of whom, Martin Henderson, foreman to Messrs. Watson and son, of Waren mill, with an ardour of philanthropy and intrepidity, proposed, if any would join him, to procure a boat from Bamborough castle, to attempt the relief of the crew, but the tremendous waves that were breaking over the shattered bark, appalled every other heart, he, therefore, as a last and almost hopeless expedient, tied a rope round his waist, and giving the other end to his companions, dauntlessly plunged into the boisterous sea, trusting that either by swimming or the recurrence of the waves, he might reach the vessel, which he fortunately accomplished; the master immediately plunged in to meet his deliverer, and after being dragged on shore, Henderson twice again returned, and thus saved the lives of three of his fellow-creatures, who must otherwise inevitably have perished, as the last man had not been three minutes on shore, till the vessel broke up.

This year, the old house at Harraton, Durham, the residence of the family of Lambton, was in great part taken down, and the present splendid mansion, which now bears the name of Lambton castle, built on a plan furnished and executed by the elder Bonomi. The purchase of a large property from the family of Milbanke, has afforded an approach to Lambton castle, directly from the great north road, near Pelaw, where a very handsome lodge has been erected to the credit of the architect J. B. Bonomi.

The Methodist meeting-house, in Walker-gate-lane, Berwick, was this year built. It is in the Gothic style.

Zion chapel, in Sunderland, (Methodist new connexion,) was this year built.

The Close-gate, a portion of the walls of Newcastle, (the tower of which after the fall of the bridge, had been converted into a temporary prison), was taken down, on account of obstructing the traffic in that street, as waggons frequently stuck fast in this gate-way, which caused great confusion.

1798 (*Jan. 3*).—The new theatre at North Shields was opened. Cawdell's (the manager) occasional address was well received, as were the new comedy of "*A Cure for the Heart Ache*," and the farce of "*Lock and Key*." The house was not so crowded as was expected, though very respectable. January 8th, being fixed for the masonic opening of this theatre, the procession, which was most numerous and respectable, took place from the Star and Garter, where the Zion Lodge was held. The new comedy of "*Wives as they were, and Maids as they are*," was performed. The house was

nearly a *bumper*, and every part of the performance went off with general *eclat*. Cawdell's new song of "*The Dutchman's jacket fresh trimmed, or the Cuffs for the Cape*," was requested by the brethren, and sung by the author with the usual applause.

1798 (*Jan. 25*).—In the evening of this day (Thursday), between nine and ten o'clock, a fire broke out in the shop of Mr. Elliott, hatter, in Dean Street, Newcastle, which, in a few minutes communicated to the dwelling-house above, occupied by Mr. Matthew Brown, printer, and in a very short time extended to that of Mr. John Rankin, both of which were entirely destroyed. The flames spread with such dreadful rapidity, that only a few trifling articles of furniture could be secured, and Mr. Brown's family did not save any of their clothes, except those they wore when the fire was discovered. On the first alarm, a drum was beat to arms, on which the military attended and rendered very essential service. The fire at one time, raged with such tremendous violence, that the Shakespeare tavern, and the buildings on the lower side, for a great length of time, appeared to be in the most imminent danger; but, fortunately, they suffered no considerable degree of injury, though the destruction of furniture, &c. by their hasty removal, was very grievous to the owners. On the 29th, Mr. Elliott, in whose shop the fire originated, was taken into custody, on a charge of having wilfully occasioned the same; and after a long examination before the magistrates, he was fully committed for trial. At the assizes in August, he removed his trial by *Habeas Corpus*, from the town to *the* county, and was acquitted.—*See Feb. 22, 1789.*

January.—Died, in Sandgate, Newcastle, Mr. James Palmer, the celebrated vender of *nostrums* and *quack medicines*, known by the name of Doctor Palmer. He was 100 years of age, and for the last 30 years of his life, he was so far from adhering to the rules generally esteemed essential to the preservation of health, that he seldom went to bed sober. He served as a private soldier in the royal army, in the year 1715.

January.—Died, at South Shields, Ann Patterson, aged 102 years.

February 5.—Died, at Newhouse, near Eshe, in the county of Durham, the Rev. Ferdinand Ashmall, a Roman Catholic clergyman, in the 104th year of his age.

Same day, the new clock in All-Saints' steeple, Newcastle, was put in motion. It was allowed to be a beautiful piece of mechanism. On the front of the clock, in the inside of the steeple, is a plate with the following inscription:—"This clock was made by order of the trustees for building this church, by John Thwaites, Clerkenwell, London, 1797. Samuel Lawton, clerk and treasurer, for John Greaves, Quayside, Newcastle."

February 11.—The Roman Catholic chapel in Pilgrim-street, Newcastle, was opened for divine service, when the Rev. James Worswick, and two French emigrant clergymen, officiated at high-mass. Mr. Worswick, who is a much-respected and benevolent clergyman, still officiates in this chapel, which has recently undergone some very beautiful and extensive additions. *See Sep. 19th, 1830.*

1798 (*Feb. 11*).—Died, at Dipton, in the parish of Lanchester, Catherine Johnson, in the 106th year of her age.

February 17.—At a meeting of the governors, stewards, and brethren of the fraternity of Hoastmen of Newcastle, it was resolved that the sum of one hundred pounds be subscribed by this company at the Bank of England, in aid of government, for the defence of this country; and that the like sum of one hundred pounds be continued annually during the war, so long as the funds of the company would admit of it.

February 18.—The new Baptist chapel, at the head of the Tuthill-stairs, Newcastle, was opened for divine service.

February 22.—At a meeting of the common council in Newcastle, it was resolved “that five hundred pounds should be annually subscribed towards defraying the expenses of government *during the war*; and for the purpose of enabling the corporation to make this sacrifice of its revenue, the residence of the mayor in the Mansion-house, and all the occasional public entertainments heretofore given there, shall, after Michaelmas next, be discontinued during the present calamitous state of the country.”

This month, as some workmen were digging on the Law-hill, at South Shields, the property of Nicholas Fairles, esq., they discovered the remains of a Roman hypocaust. A sketch taken at the time was in the possession of Mr. Fairles, with some fragments of the masonry, which consisted of brick and dressed freestone, intermingled; the lowest course was of rough whinstone evidently brought from the shore, as the *barnacles* (*patella vulgata*) were still adhering to them. A beautiful gold coin of Marcus Aurelius, and several small brass coins from Claudius Gothicus to Valentinian, which were dug up at the same time, were in the possession of Mr. Fairles.

March 2.—Was launched from the Southwick Quay, on the river Wear, the ship, Lord Duncan, the largest vessel ever built upon that river; her extreme length being 143 feet 10 inches, her breadth 39 feet, and admeasuring 925 13-94ths. tons. Towards her completion, serious apprehensions were entertained for her safety in launching, from the narrowness and shallowness of the river. These difficulties, however, were overcome by deepening that part of its bed which her prow would first strike, and by laying afloat several stop-beams, fastened with ropes, so as to gradually impede her velocity, and ultimately bring her up. Thousands of spectators covered the borders of the river, many of whom on the south side were engulfed to the middle, by the rising of the water on receiving this ponderous body. She sailed on the 13th of July, 1798, for London, where she remained unemployed till 1800, when she sailed for Smyrna, and was there taken into government service till August 1802. In 1806 she was chartered for the West Indies, and was accidentally blown up at Port-au-Prince in 1807. By this unfortunate event, William Havelock, esq., the owner sustained a loss of upwards of 30,000*l.*

This month, an elegant silver medal, at the expense of the town

of Sunderland, was presented to John Crawford, a native of that place, who so heroically nailed Admiral Duncan's flag to the mast, in the glorious action off Camperdown. On one side was engraved a view of two ships in action, with a scroll at the top, "*Duncan and Glory*;" on the reverse, a coat of arms, a quadrant on the shield, the motto, "*Orbis est Dei*," with this inscription underneath, "The town of Sunderland, to John Crawford, for gallant services the 11th of October, 1797."

1798 (*April 2*).—Died, in Gateshead, Mr. William Hilton, aged 72 years, much esteemed for his poetical talents. His "*Poetical Works*," in 2 vols. 8vo., were published in Newcastle in 1775 and 1776.

April 21.—Died, in Newcastle, Mr. Joseph Booth, aged 82 years. He was formerly a traveller to a considerable manufactory in that town; and among other eccentricities of character, gave rise to the well-known story on which was founded the ludicrous farce, called "*Ducks and Green Peas*."

May 3.—A meeting of the inhabitants of Newcastle, was convened by the mayor, for the purpose of forming an armed association for its defence. July 31st, the members who had enrolled themselves for this purpose, were drawn out on the town-moor, and formed into eight companies under the command of Sir Matthew White Ridley, bart. Their uniform was a blue jacket, white trousers, and a round hat.

May 13.—The service on the organ at Gateshead church was performed by a son of R. S. Hawks, esq., (now Sir Robert Shafto Hawks, knt.), of that place, who was only seven years of age, and lost his sight in early infancy. His performance gave a most amazing proof of musical genius and early proficiency.

May 17.—Being Ascension day, the right worshipful Anthony Hood, esq., mayor of Newcastle, and several of the aldermen, surveyed, according to ancient custom, the boundaries of their jurisdiction on the river Tyne. The procession, consisting of the barges of the corporation and river jury, accompanied by boats, &c., suitably decorated, set out on the morning, and on their arrival at Clifford's Fort, were received by the officers of the garrison with a file of men under arms, and salutes from the ships in the harbour and guns on shore. An experiment was tried with the keel fitted up by Mr. William Row, to act as a gun vessel under the direction of Captain Tatham of the navy, and in conformity to a resolution of the keel-owners. This vessel completely answered the expectations formed of her, and while the procession remained at the Fort, she was brought forward and fired several shots with great certainty as to the direction, from a long 18 pounder in her bow; after which, the sails were set, and she was taken over the bar, and made several tacks, and afterwards wrought into the harbour in a manner that surprised all the nautical persons who saw it, and there was no doubt that keels fitted up in the same manner, might be employed so as to prevent any privateer coming near this port. The keel was fitted with a bulwark all round the gunwale, and had a flat

deck; she was wrought by seven oars on each side, and sailed under two lug sails with topsails. Two long boats fitted after Captain Schank's plan, one with a carronade, the other with a long six pounder were also exhibited.

1798 (*May 27*).—Mr. Charlton Nesbit, a native of Swalwell, near Newcastle, and who had been a pupil of Mr. Thomas Bewick, received from the Society of Arts, London, a silver pallet, for engraving Mr. Robert Johnson's drawing of St. Nicholas' church, in Newcastle, on twelve blocks united in one. *See October 29th, 1796.* May 25th, 1802, Mr. Nesbit received from the same society, the silver medal for engravings on wood. A scene in Tasso's "Jerusalem Delivered" drawn by Mr. Thurston, and exquisitely engraved on wood by this eminent artist, is given in Savage's "Decorative Printing." He also engraved on wood a portrait of Mr. Thomas Bewick for Mr. Charnley's edition of Bewick's 'Select Fables of Æsop and others.'

Same day, the thanks of the Society of Arts, and the silver medal were given to Mr. William Featherstonehaugh, of Lambton, near Chester-le-street, for a description, a drawing of, and a model of a machine invented by him to counterbalance the ropes used in the shafts of mines.

June.—Military encampments were formed on the coasts of Durham and Northumberland. The camps broke up the beginning of October.

August 7.—Died, at Sunderland, John Dobson, at the extraordinary age of 113 years.

August 18.—Died, at Monkwearmouth, John Fish, aged 101 years.

September 7.—An alarming fire broke out on board the *Joseph and Mary*, of South Shields, then lying at anchor near the Mill-dam. The vessel was consumed nearly to the waters' edge.

October 5.—In consequence of the signal victory obtained by Admiral Nelson, over the French fleet in the Mediterranean, an illumination took place in Newcastle, when many transparencies, with different appropriate devices, were displayed.

October 16.—A fire broke out in a hay-stack at a farm called Wheat-hill, near Swinburne castle, in Northumberland, which, together with eleven corn-stacks, were totally consumed.

November 26.—A dry dock for the repairing of ships, one of the most complete of the kind in the kingdom, was opened at South Shields, by Mr. Simon Temple, junior; on which occasion an ox was roasted whole, and with plenty of ale, made a jovial feast for the numerous workmen.

This year, the Baptist Chapel, in Sans Street, Sunderland, was built.

The old gate called Sandgate (part of the town wall) which stood across the east end of the Quay, Newcastle, was this year removed by order of the magistrates, to widen the street, which, on account of the vast number of carriages, was exceedingly inconvenient and dangerous to foot passengers.

1798.—This year, a gentleman, a stranger to Berwick, instead of riding down the high street of Castle-gate, in his way to that town in a dark night, and there then being no lamps lighted in that quarter, rode down that part of this suburb called Wind-mill-hole. After having passed all the buildings to the right, the lights in the windows of Tweedmouth came in view, which he, unfortunately mistaking for those of Berwick, pushed his horse forward to the edge of the bank of the river Tweed, and still urging the animal on, both were precipitated to the bottom, a descent of upwards of 150 feet, two-thirds of which is a perpendicular; and, wonderful to relate, although the horses' brains were dashed out, yet the rider escaped unhurt, and climbed up another part of the ascent, carrying his saddle and bridle along with him.

His grace the duke of Northumberland, having been informed of the great number of lives that had been saved by the use of the South Shields life-boat, when ships had been stranded at the entrance of the harbour, did, with sentiments of philanthropy and generosity that do honour to his name, this year, make a voluntary offer to the shipowners, &c. of North Shields, of a boat of a similar construction to that at South Shields, to be kept at the north side, for the preservation of the lives of seamen in cases of shipwreck; and also to subscribe £20. annually towards defraying the expenses that would attend it.

This year, an Armed Association was formed in the city of Durham. About 500 of the inhabitants enrolled themselves, from whom a very efficient corps of 300 men was selected, Ralph John Fenwick, esq. lieutenant-colonel commandant. The colours were presented by Lady Milbanke, Oct. 10th, this year. A corps of cavalry was soon after raised under the command of Henry Methold, esq. Both corps remained embodied till May, 1802.

1799 (*Jan. 3.*)—The Newcastle Armed Association were drawn up in the Nuns' Field, behind Anderson Place, in that town, for the purpose of receiving an elegant pair of colours, which were presented to them by Lady Ridley, who, in an elegant speech, addressed the colonel, to which Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., made a suitable reply, after which, he addressed the corps at considerable length, in a speech fraught with loyalty. Lady Ridley also presented a standard to the troop of horse attached to the infantry, which was replied to by the captain (Burdon, afterwards Sir Thomas Burdon, knt.), after which he addressed the troop. The ground having been encircled by the corps of Newcastle Volunteers, the ceremony was conducted with the greatest regularity, in the presence of an immense concourse of people assembled on the occasion. A commodious gallery was erected for the accommodation of the ladies, which extended the whole length of the back part of the Turks' Head long-room and the old theatre. After receiving the colours, the corps fired three excellent volleys; the Newcastle Volunteers then formed a line, in the front of which the Association marched from the field. The corps afterwards partook of an elegant entertainment provided at Brodie's, the

Turk's Head inn, at which the general and the staff of the district, and many other officers and gentlemen of distinction were present. In the evening, there was a splendid ball at the Assembly Rooms, under the patronage of Lady Ridley.

To particularise every presentation of colours would be impossible within the limits of this work, suffice it to say, that the volunteer corps in the counties of Durham and Northumberland, received their colours *generally* from the hands of the fair sex, thus stimulating the exertions of those brave individuals who had come forward in defence of their country.

1799 (*Jan. 3*).—Died, at Craike, in the county of Durham, at the advanced age of 104 years, Simeon Ellerton. He was a noted pedestrian, and was often employed by gentlemen in the neighbourhood on commissions to London, and other places, which he always executed on foot with fidelity and diligence. He lived in a neat stone cottage of his own building, and what was remarkable, he had literally carried it on his own head! it being his practice to bring home from every journey, the properest stone he could pick up on the road, until he had accumulated a sufficient quantity to erect his habitation, by which time, although the motive had ceased, this practice had grown so much into a habit, that he imagined he could travel the better for having a weight upon his head, and he seldom came home without some loading. If any person enquired his reason, he used facetiously to answer "*'Tis to keep on my hat.*"

February 9.—This was a most dreadful stormy day, so much so, that (being Saturday) no carts could get to Newcastle market.

March 10.—A fire broke out in the workshop of Mr. Laing, ship-builder, at Monkwearmouth-shore. It raged with such violence, that all the stores therein, consisting of pitch, tar, oakum, &c., with the workmen's tools, were totally destroyed, before it could be got under. Unfortunately Mr. Laing's office was in the premises, and all his books, papers, &c. were consumed.

March 15.—A handsome brig of 375 tons burthen, was launched at Tweedmouth. It was built by Mr. Bruce, and was the largest vessel ever built at that place.

March 26.—Died, at the Leazes, near Newcastle, of a pulmonary complaint, aged 46 years, Mr. John Howard, author of "*A Treatise on Spherical Geometry*, 1798," and several other ingenious mathematical and poetical performances. He was interred in St. John's church-yard, in Newcastle.

April 18.—Matthew Ridley, esq. (the present baronet), eldest son of Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., attained his 21st year, on which occasion, the bells in the different churches in Newcastle were rung at intervals during the day, and the utmost festivity reigned at the hospitable mansion of Blagdon. The day was also celebrated with unusual glee at Blyth, where a grand dinner was given to the principal inhabitants, and in the evening there was a general illumination. It may not, perhaps, be unworthy of remark, that to distinguish more particularly this joyous event, a large flag

was hoisted on the highest vane of the church of St. Nicholas, Newcastle.

1799 (*May 29*).—A fire broke out in a farm-house inhabited by Mark Jobson, hind to Mr. Robert Jobson, of Elswick, near Newcastle, which in a short time consumed the same, and also a cow confined in one of the out-houses. Mrs. Jobson was severely burnt in endeavouring to extricate the poor animal from the flames.

This month, died, in Newcastle, John Jackson, a free-meter, an eccentric character, well known by the name of "*Beau Jackson*." He applied to the parish officers of St. Nicholas' for relief which was granted to him. After his death, cash to the amount of £100. was found in his apartment.

July 22.—Mary Nicholson, was executed at Durham, for poisoning her mistress. On being launched from the cart the rope broke, and she fell to the ground; and it was near an hour before another was procured to execute the sentence of the law.

July 25.—Died, in the 31st year of his age, John Tweddell, esq., of Threepwood, in Northumberland. This accomplished scholar and gentleman was educated at Hartforth, under the Rev. Matthew Raine (father of Dr. Raine, of the Charter-house), and after some time spent with Dr. Parr, entered of Trinity College, Cambridge, where his classical acquirements, and particularly the elegance of his Greek and Latin compositions soon opened a path to academic honours. In 1788 he gained the whole of Sir William Brown's prizes; in 1790 the chancellor's medal; and in 1791 and 1792 the members' prize for Middle and Senior Bachelors. Mr. Tweddell was elected Fellow of Trinity College in 1792. He entered of the Middle Temple soon after; but, in 1795 embarked for Hamburgh, on a classical tour, and dying at Athens, was buried in the Thescum. A block of white marble, with a simple Greek inscription, was, after some difficulty, placed over Mr. Tweddell's remains by the exertions of Lord Byron, and Mr. Fiot, of St. John's.

August 6.—The Count D'Artois, and his suite, passed through Newcastle, on their way from Edinburgh to London.

August 8.—Died, at his residence at the Bath-house, Newcastle, major-general Lord Viscount Fielding, colonel of the 22d regiment of light dragoons, and second in command of the military force in that district. August 15th the corpse was removed for interment in the family vault in Warwickshire, attended with grand military honours.

August 28.—About six o'clock on the morning, a fire broke out in a warehouse at the Head of the Side, belonging to Mr. Bulman, saddler and ironmonger, which for a short time raged with great fury; but the fire bell having been rung and the drum beat to arms, the water engines, a number of active men, and a sufficient range of military to keep off the crowd and prevent pilfering, were very quickly assembled; and the flames, though at first tremendous in appearance, and threatening destruction to the whole

building, were overcome in less than an hour. The origin of the conflagration could not be accounted for, as no person lived on the premises; and though a fire had been lighted in one of the rooms a few hours the preceding day, it was extinguished about six o'clock in the evening. A considerable part of the extensive stock was inevitably burnt, but the greater part was saved by the exertions of those who were ready and anxious to render every assistance in their power, yet in the hurry of removal, great loss and injury were sustained. During the conflagration, the proprietor informed the assistants that there was a quantity of gunpowder in one of the upper warehouses, and two intrepid fellows mounted a ladder, and, through a window, entered the apartment where it was placed, within a few inches of burning matter, and safely lodged the barrels in St. Nicholas' church; a most fortunate circumstance, as a few minutes' delay might perhaps have endangered the lives of an immense multitude. Mr. Bulman's shop and warehouse were part of a range of buildings which stood in the middle of the street a little in advance of the south door of St. Nicholas' church; they are now entirely removed. Mr. Bourne, in his History of Newcastle, page 109, points out the advantage of their removal. It was in these premises that Mr. Partis' dreadful fire occurred.—*See Oct. 21, 1724.*

1799 (*Sept. 1*).—A woman was interred at St. Oswald's church, Durham, aged 102 years. She retained her faculties in a surprising degree.

September 5.—On the news arriving in Newcastle, of the Dutch fleet in the Texel having been surrendered to Admiral Mitchell, the bells were rung, the volunteers marched to the Sandhill, where they fired three volleys to celebrate the achievement, and the armed association went through the same ceremony with great dexterity at the Forth. The Darlington volunteers met in the Market Place of that town, and fired three fine volleys, and the town at night was brilliantly illuminated.

October 3.—A woman was brought to the lunatic asylum, near Newcastle, who had lived upwards of three years among the rocks, on the sea-shore near Seaham. From whence, or in what manner she first came there, was unknown; but she spoke the Scottish dialect, and talked of Loch-Stewart and Aber-Gordon, in a rambling manner. She was about 35 years of age, inoffensive and cheerful, and during her residence among the rocks was fantastically dressed in rags which chance or shipwreck threw in her way; she always kept a good fire of weed or coal which the sea threw up, and it was supposed lived on shell-fish. What was remarkable, a beard had grown on the lower part of her chin nearly an inch long, and bushy like the whiskers of a man.

October 10.—The Newcastle armed association were drawn out on the Town Moor, to be reviewed by lieutenant-general Musgrave. The corps afterwards fired three excellent volleys on the Sandhill, to celebrate the important victory of the surrender of Alkmaar, in Holland; the bells were also rung on the occasion. Immediately

after the first fire, a countryman standing in his cart, unused probably to "*the din of arms*," and not expecting so loud a salutation, fell as flat as if he had been actually shot, to the great amusement of those members of the corps who observed the circumstance; added to which, the ghost-like countenance exhibited by the poor fellow on his resurrection from his "*dream of death*" contributed not a little to the extravagance of the scene.

1799 (Oct. 11).—A violent explosion took place in Lumley colliery, in the county of Durham, by which dreadful catastrophe thirty-nine human beings were launched into eternity.

November 12.—Several meteors, or balls of fire, were seen at Greatham, near Hartlepool, and other parts of that neighbourhood. They were first observed between five and six o'clock on the morning, in an eastern direction, and continued falling in succession and together till day-break. The atmosphere was very clear, and the moon, which was full, shone with uncommon brilliancy. The meteors at first appeared like what are vulgarly called shooting stars, which soon became stationary; they then, as it were, burst, but without any perceptible report, and passed to the northward, leaving behind them beautiful trains of floating fire in various shapes, some pointed, some radiated, some in sparks, and others in large columns. The fire-balls continued falling about two hours, and were succeeded till near eight o'clock by slight flashes of lightning. The general appearance was sublimely awful, particularly to the Hartlepool fishermen then at sea. To some spectators the sky appeared to open, and to display a number of luminous serpents moving in a particular direction; these were soon after broken into separate balls, and fell towards the earth in a shower of fire.

November 14.—General Sir Ralph Abercrombie, and his suite, landed at Shields from the *Helder*, which they left on the 11th. A Russian general landed at the same time.

This month, seven transports put into Shields through stress of weather, having on board upwards of 1,600 Russians and Cossacks, bound for Guernsey. Several of the officers were in Newcastle on the 21st, and excited much curiosity as they walked through the streets. They danced at the Assembly in the evening, and amused the company with some of their own country songs after tea. Their uniform was green, with enormous cocked hats almost covered with gold lace.

December 14.—Early on the morning, a fellow contrived to break through a window into the kitchen at Woolsington, near Newcastle, the seat of Matthew Bell, esq., where a young chimney-sweeper, who had not finished his work the day before, was lying under a table; after having warmed himself at the fire, the fellow proceeded up stairs, when the young *gentleman of the black robe* ventured out of his covert, and, by ringing a bell, alarmed the family, but the fellow made his escape; the boy, however, gave so accurate a description of his person and dress, that he was taken soon after in company with two women (one of whom pretended

to be a fortune-teller), and taken before the magistrates in Newcastle, where the boy was called upon to identify him among a number of other men, which he readily did, and he was consequently committed to prison. At the assizes for Northumberland the following year, John M'Kenan, for breaking into the house of Matthew Bell, esq., of Woolsington was found guilty and condemned, but afterwards reprieved.

This year, the Society of Arts presented the gold medal to Mr. Matthew Forster, of Broomy-holme, near Chester-le-street, for observations on the comparative culture of turnips.



END OF VOL. I.

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